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Thursday, January 29, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Volume 56, Issue 20

DAY OF ACTION

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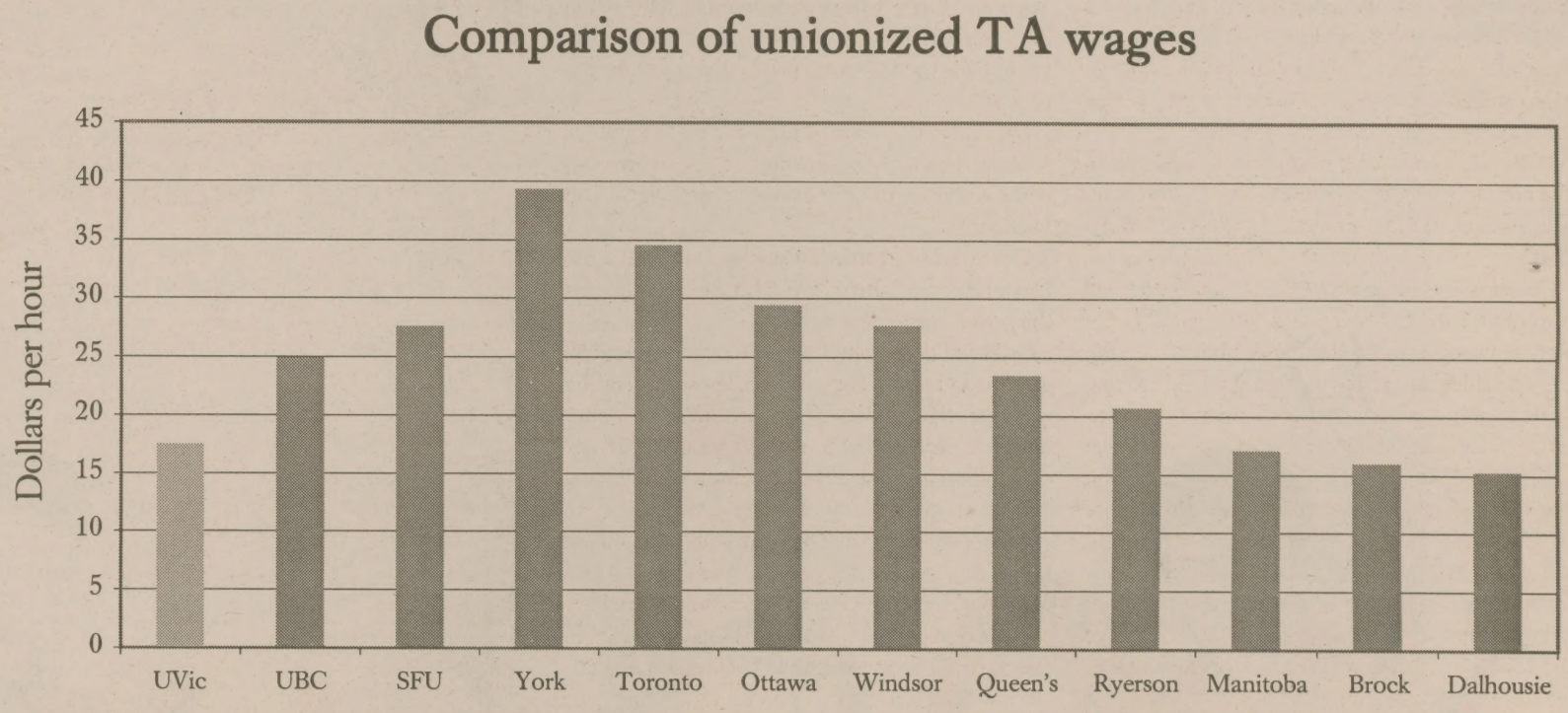
TAs contract ratified to mixed response

BY SARAH PETRESCU



After a lengthy round of bargaining, CUPE 4163 and the University of Victoria have signed a new contract that grants the union pay increases but no deal on tuition.

"We made the best deal we could, short of taking on the provincial government or taking large-scale job action," said Sherwin Arnott, chair of the union's bargaining committee.

On Jan. 22, CUPE 4163, which includes teaching assistants (TAs), second language instructors and computing staff, voted 78 per cent by secret ballot in favour of a new collective agreement with UVic.

Significant gains for the union include a 23 per cent retroactive pay increase for graduate student TAs in the form of a graduate fellowship and increased wages and benefits for second language instructors. However, the union was not given any concessions on tuition increases or wage parity with other universities like UBC and SFU, who provide $8 to $10 more per hour in wages.

Non-student TAs did not receive any increase in remuneration.

"There are some mixed feelings about the contract we settled on," said Arnott..

"Lots of people voted 'Yes' for the agreement, not because they liked it, but because they didn't want to go on strike," said Melissa Moroz, communications director for the union.

According to Jamie Cassels, UVic's Vice-President Academic and Provost, the university operates under provincial guidelines that don't allow general wage increases in the public sector. Exceptions to the wage freeze are only permitted to maintain market parity, a condition that gave second language instructors an eight per cent wage increase.

"We made our case for the language instructors," said Cassels. "For the TAs we offered the fellowship."

Cassels said the university is pleased to reach an agreement with the union. The final contract was ratified Jan. 23 after being passed by the UVic Board of Governors and the Provincial Public Sector Union. It will remain in effect until Sept. 1, 2005.

CUPE 4163 was without a contract since August 2003 when they entered into bargaining with the university.

Negotiations fell apart last December when mediator Grant McArthur bowed out and the university rejected the union's proposal to go to binding arbitration. Talks resumed a day after the union took job action on Jan. 9, stopping traffic that entered the university to hand out information leaflets.

Moroz and Arnott said they will continue fighting for tuition concessions, adding that the union will join the Canadian Federation of Students in their National Day of Action against tuition fee increases on Feb. 4.

"Now we'll have to put the pressure on politically, rather than at the bargaining table," said Arnott.

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Activists gear up for Liberal smackdown

BY JEB GORDON

Jude Coates, chair of the UVic Students' Society, will spend the next week stapling placards and training activists for the Canadian Federation of Students' National Day of Action on Feb. 4.

The cross-country protest targets tuition fee increases, something that hits home for plenty of UVic students. In the past two years, tuition fees have increased by almost 70 per cent.

"We want to remind government and citizens of the need to invest in education," said Coates, who also stresses the importance of access to education.

Coates is optimistic about the numbers that will turn out for the Day of Action. The 2002 Day of Action brought three thousand students to the provincial legislature lawns, chanting and waving signs to stop tuition increases. The action was to little avail. The then-newly-elected provincial Liberals had lifted a tuition freeze imposed by the previous NDP government and would continue to cut core funding to post-secondary institutions.

A student defeat in the tuition showdown may be the cause for waning enthusiasm in further lobbying the government. The most visible aspect of the UVSS campaign, a Gordon Campbell tuition fee sign outside the Student Union Building, has been repeatedly vandalized.

A week before the protest, the Students' Society themselves are not solid on what they are planning. They scrapped plans to hold a series of lectures on tuition increases in favour of an activist camp and have yet to organize anything more than leafleting and classroom visits.

The camp, coordinated by UVSS Director of Academics Erik Haensel, will feature placard painting, slogan writing, question and answer sessions on tuition, and rockets. Haensel will be talking with students to explain the looming tuition increases. Haensel said he wants to speak directly to students to "find out if people are ready for the protest."

The camp will be held near the UVic fountain, Monday through Wednesday. "I hope to give students a chance to be part of the campaign," said Haensel.

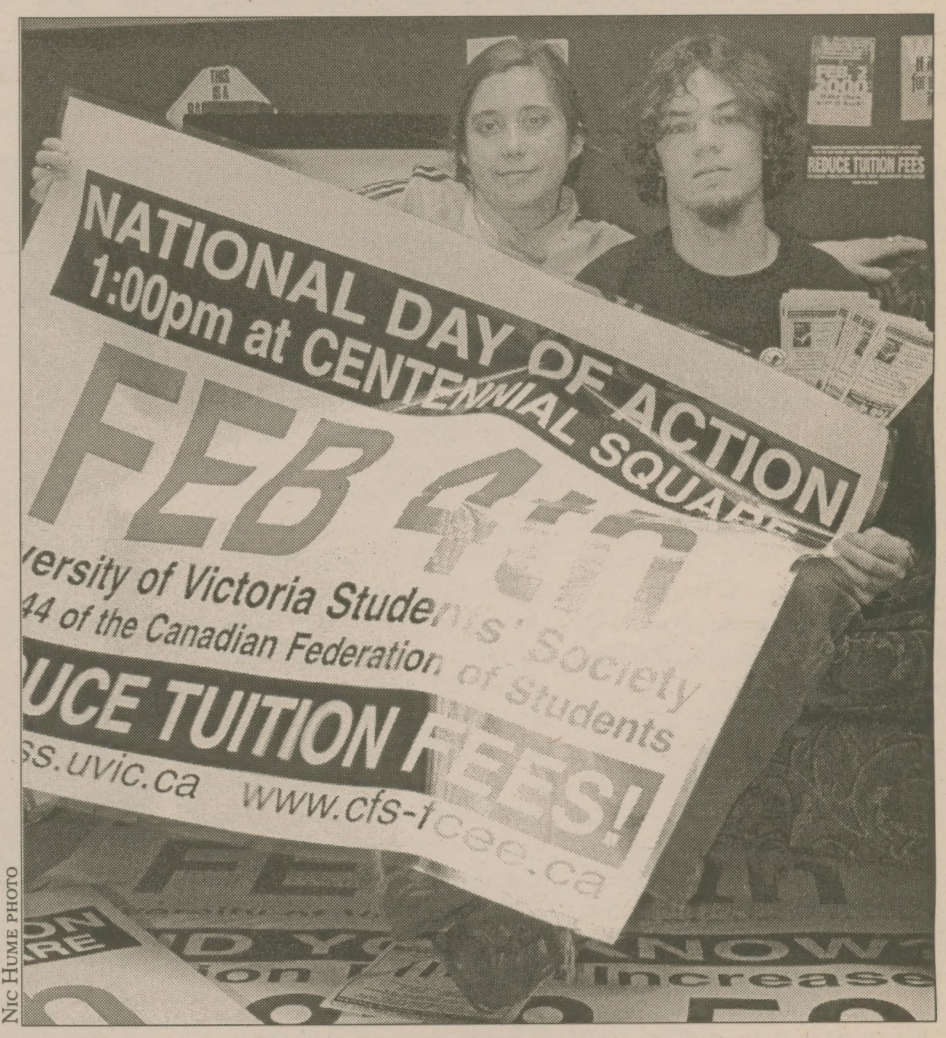
Coates is not guarded in stating the goals of the Day of Action. "The rally will hopefully embarrass the government," she said.

Coates said the rally is important because it will give the university and provincial government the message that students cannot afford another tuition increase. UVic is proposing another 28 per cent tuition increase if they cannot find additional funding to meet their $19 million deficit.

"I think the rally is a good plan, with all the hikes. But, I don't think it's going to stop them," said Claire Osburg, a second-year psychology student.

Coates said that students should participate "because public post-secondary education is in crisis and we have the opportunity to use our strength in numbers to send a strong message to the public and government."

The National Day of Action rally begins at Centennial Square at 1 p.m. on Feb. 4. Participants will then march through downtown to the legislature lawns.



NIC HUME PHOTO

UVSS Chair Jude Coates and Director of Academics Erik Haensel have been working overtime organizing for the Feb. 4 Day of Action.

Tuition fees slated to rise again

Vice-president says 28 per cent increase is worst-case scenario

BY PATRICK WHITE

The University of Victoria is facing a budget shortfall of $19.2 million, a deficit that may have to be paid in full by a tuition fee increase, according to UVic's head academic and financial officers.

The province will cut funding to UVic's operating budget by a total of $7 million, according to UVic Vice-President Finance Operations Jack Falk.

According to a letter sent from Minister of Advanced Education Shirley Bond to UVic President David Turpin on March 11, 2003, the provincial government will cut its grant to UVic by $3.6 million for the upcoming financial year, which starts on March 31. The province has also earmarked $3.4 million for specific new or growing programs in engineering, health and music.

In combination with inflation, contract increases, financial aid increases, hirings, library acquisitions, computing infastructure and few other annual hikes to expenses, UVic will be out $19.2 million if all other revenues remain the same from the 2003–04 budget.

"The province decides how we are going to spend a lot of this money," said Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels.

If students shoulder the entire $19.2 million shortfall, tuition will rise 28 per cent.

"We are not happy with that," said Cassels.

"We're hopeful of reducing that number. We are continuing to lobby for more government funding."

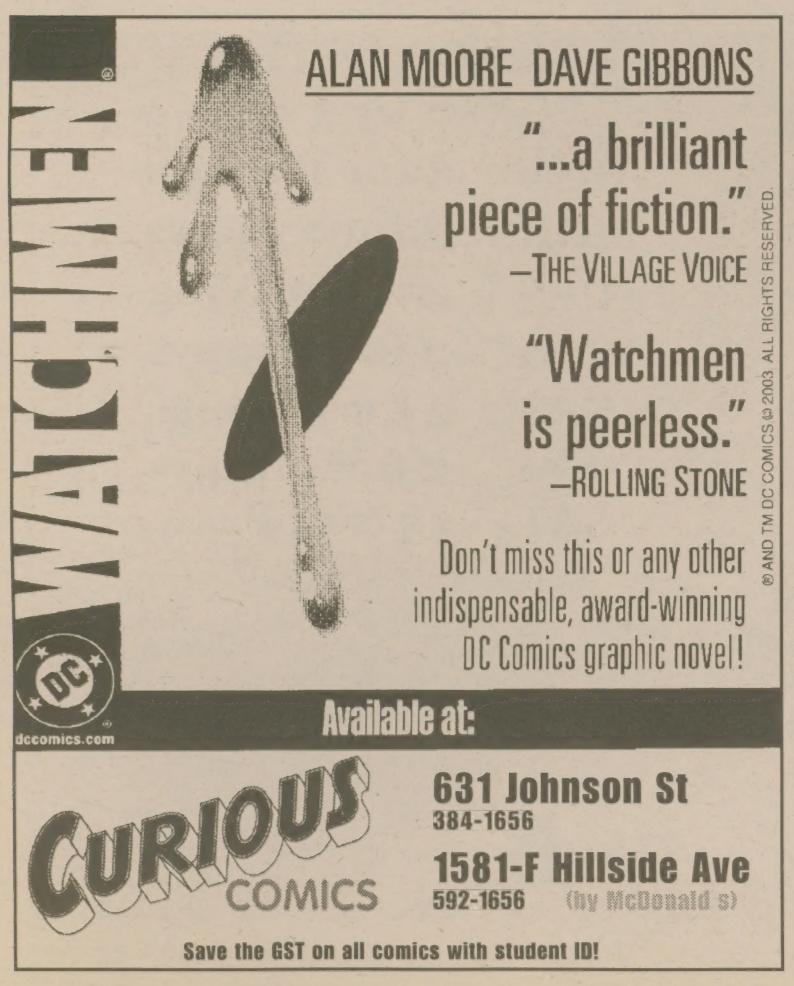
Jude Coates, chair of the UVic Students' Society, said she sympathizes with Cassels. "I realize they are between a rock and a hard place, but the administration has to flex some muscle and lobby the government more."

Coates isn't holding her breath for UVic's lobbying efforts. "I'm not especially optimistic about the level of effort the administration is putting in to lobbying the government."

"The real issue here is government funding," added Coates. "We have to target the source, not the university budget."

Cassels and Falk hope the province, as well as university fundraising efforts, will bump up revenue expectations in the coming months. They will know for sure how much the provincial government is kicking in on Feb. 17, when the Liberals announce the provincial budget. From there the Board of Governors approves a budget framework and then sets tuition. It is obliged by law to plan for a balanced budget.

Karen McDonald, communications director with the Ministry of Advanced Education, said the expected cuts are based on a service plan and not the actual budget. "We won't be able to comment on those numbers until the actual budget is released," she said.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International buddies

Canadian and international students pair up to hang out and fit in

BY JOHN BRANDON GRAHAM-KNIGHT

Lonely international students at UVic can find friends through the Buddy Program, which matches them with Canadian students and helps ease the transition into Canadian life.

It's a "sharing of cultures," says Nicola LaMorte, an International Student Advisor at UVic. "They [international students] don't feel so isolated, and that's a big thing."

LaMorte also stresses that these friendships break down national barriers.

"When we reach out it brings importance to international students," says LaMorte. "One-on-one is where relationships build."

Alex Carr, a 4th-year linguistics major, and Morito Ota, a 2nd-year business student, met through the Buddy Program. They get together at least once a week to watch a movie, play games, or just hang out.

"We have the same interests," says Ota. "Computers and games."

Ota is among over 1000 international students at UVic, 107 of which applied to be in the Buddy Program last fall.

Usually the students have just arrived in Canada, and need help settling in. Most are from Japan, Korea or China, but a few are from more obscure countries such as Oman.

"It's very valuable for first-year students," says LaMorte. "The program helps students overcome difficulties such as culture shock and isolation."

Not all international students can take part in the program. Only 55 Canadian volunteers signed up last semester, just over half the number of international applications. The problem is so bad that American students or fourth-year international students sometimes substitute for Canadians.

Trying to find enough Canadian buddies is, according to LaMorte, the biggest problem that the program faces. That's where Courtney Jajic comes in. She's one of three work-study students who organize the program and recruit new volunteers.

In addition to recruiting volunteers, Jajic organizes events for the buddies.

Last fall they organized a Thanksgiving dinner, pumpkin carving and ice-skating.

Jajic promises even more events for this semester. Last year program participants went on a ski trip to Mount Washington.

"We haven't been to any of the events," says Carr. "They cost money."

Ota did attend the events.

"He just wanted to meet a woman," jokes Carr.

"No way," says a laughing Ota. "I just wanted to have some communication."

Students seeking love will have to look elsewhere.

"We only match male-male or female-female students," LaMorte says. "And the students have to meet in a public place."

LaMorte helped to design the orientation Canadian volunteers go through. It teaches Canadian students about communicating with people from other cultures and how to help a buddy who is emotionally distressed. It also emphasizes the difficulties of culture shock, the emotional response to being dumped into a foreign country.

NIC HUME PHOTO

Nicola LaMorte, advisor for UVic international students, says the Buddy Program helps visiting students get used to Canadian culture.

Carr knew about culture shock long before he joined the program. He spent a year in Japan from 1999 to 2000, the same year Ota first came to Canada. Ota laughs as Carr describes his time there.

"There were some pretty girls there," says Carr. "It was good."

Carr isn't the only volunteer who has travelled internationally. Approximately half of the Canadian volunteers have been overseas either on vacation or on exchange.

In Japan, Carr learned how to speak Japanese, and he continues to study the language as part of his linguistics program. To him, exchanging languages is part of exchanging culture. But LaMorte stresses that volunteers don't need to know a foreign language to join.

"It [language] may be an interest," she says. "But this isn't a conversation program."

Ota has spent three years in Canada and is already fluent in English. But he does take the opportunity to improve his vocabulary. Carr has taught him about "booty" and what it means to "have an in."

Surprisingly, it is usually international students who drop out after they are paired with a buddy, but it's not because they don't like it.

"Sometimes people just don't get along, which is normal," says Jajic. "But there's always the opportunity to change buddies."

Most of the international students appreciate the program, says Jajic.

"We get lots of them that send us e-mails," she says. "They say 'Thanks, it was really fun.'"

Ota laughs as he describes his time in the program.

"Not too bad," he says.

Carr smiles and says, "Yeah, we're a couple of characters."

NIC HUME PHOTO

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News briefs

Blair wins bill to boost tuition

British Prime Minister Tony Blair narrowly escaped an internal party revolt Tuesday in gaining support for a bill that calls for the tripling of tuition fees. The controversial bill will legisiate the British government to raise tuition fees by $7000 for post-secondary students who currently pay nominal fees. The bill met the largest backbencher rebellion Blair's government has seen.

–Sarah Petrescu

Turpin renewed

David Turpin had been awarded a second five-year term as president and vice-chancellor of UVic. The Board of Governors decided unanimously to reappoint Turpin following a performance review by a 20-member committee and consultation with a number of community members.

–Patrick White

Enviros pester MLAs

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) staged a day of action against the working forest Jan. 26. The group leafletted at 28 MLA offices province-wide. The action was the latest in an ongoing struggle against the Working Forest legislation and the Forest Revitalization Act.

Ken Wu, spokesman for the WCWC, an activist organization in the thick of the struggle, said "the Working Forest creates corporate certainty on public lands, and the Forest Revitalization Act eliminates the social benefit that logging corporations used to provide for local communities."

–Noah Ross

Young Liberals fire away at local candidates

BY SARAH PETRESCU

The UVic-based Young Liberals of Canada scrutinized their Juan De Fuca-Esquimalt riding competitors, Keith Martin and Michael Roger, at the candidates' first informal public debate last Saturday.

The on-campus meeting attracted nearly 50 attendees and members of the media. UVic Young Liberal President Lorne Phip said he called the meeting after Martin offered to come speak to the campus club. "When Michael Roger's campaign found out Keith was coming, they were quite upset," said Phips. "They asked if they could come too, so we said 'sure.'"

The incumbent Martin dove into the controversy surrounding his decision to leave the newly-formed merger between the Progressive Conservatives and Canadian Alliance parties. He now sits as an independent and is running for the nomination of the Liberal party.

"The party I was a member of left me, and the party I was against plunked itself square into the issues I am in the middle of," said Martin.

Although a self-professed fiscal conservative, Martin said he was liberally-minded on social concerns. "I am not a social conservative. I believe in pro-choice and I believe that what people do in their private lives is their business, not the government's."

The debate heated up when newcomer Roger questioned Martin's history as an Alliance and Reform MP, contrasting his platform to privatize healthcare against Prime Minister Paul Martin's defense of universal healthcare. The meeting was Roger's first chance to speak publicly as a competitor for his riding, and he wasted no time grilling his counterpart.

"Our government needs to be a government of principle," said Roger. "We are seeing a shift to the right, which is not good because voters are seeing that too."

Both Martin and Roger used the forum to flaunt their achievements on social issues. Roger described his 25-year career working with aboriginal communities on some of the "worst" reserves in Canada. Martin spoke about his time as an emergency room doctor, also on the "worst" reserves in Canada, in detox centres and working with landmine victims in Africa.

Roger also described how his daughter's battle with cancer gave him an up-close and personal experience with Canada's healthcare system.

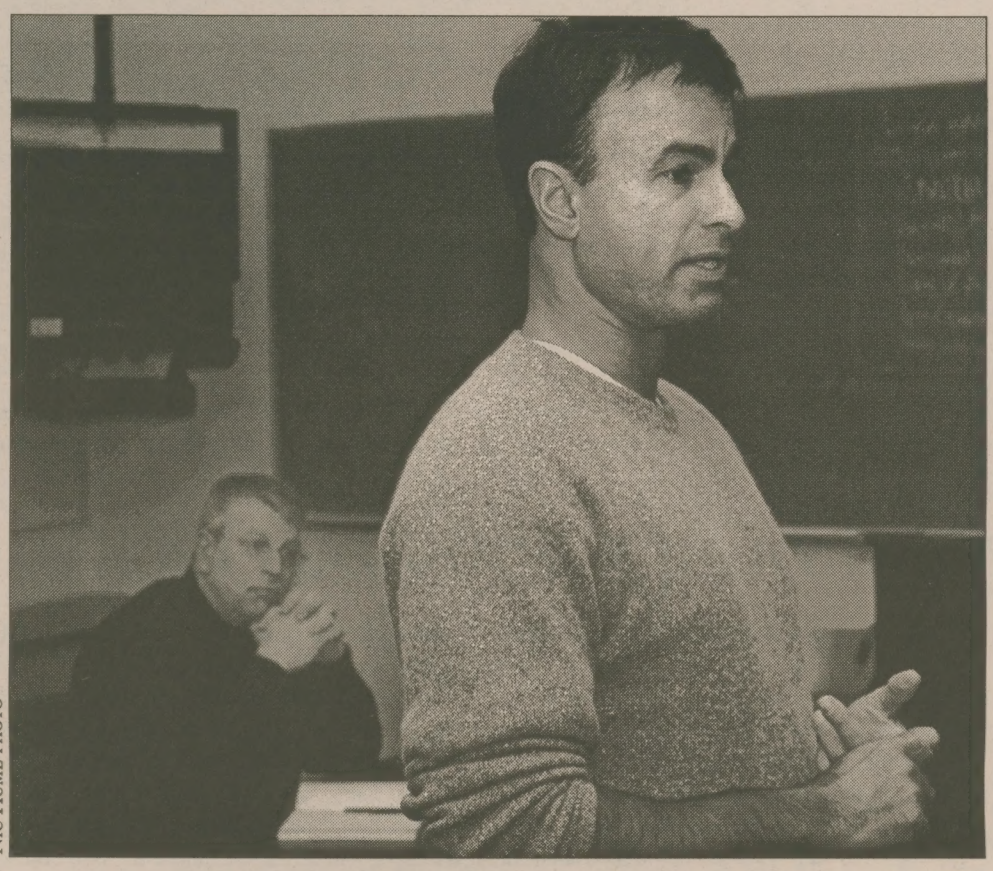
"If I thought for one second that my daughter wasn't getting the best possible treatment she could, don't you think I would've raised hell?" asked Roger.

"We have one of the best healthcare systems in the world. We need to keep it that way, not just make it for the rich."

Martin didn't disagree with Roger, but added "In order to keep our care to highest standards we need the extra funds and equipment private hospitals would bring."

Despite the disparity of political experience between Martin and Roger, both speakers held the crowd's attention with lively debate.

"I think the event went well," said Phips. "There was lots to talk about after."



NIC HUME PHOTO

Keith Martin MP (foreground) speaks to UVic's Young Liberals, while Liberal riding opponent Michael Roger looks on.

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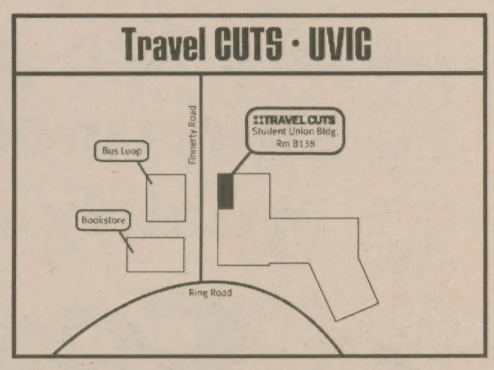

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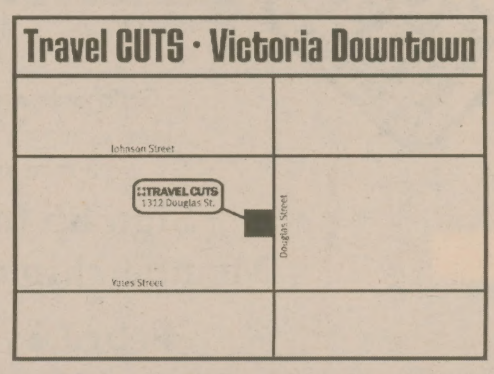

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Mars or bust

BY DANIEL SAUNDERS

Last summer, Mars was closer to Earth than it's been in 60,000 years.

Though the distance has increased in the past few months, the planet has never loomed larger in the minds of students who belong to a UVic club.

The UVic Mars Society, a local chapter of the worldwide organization, says that "the time has come for humanity to journey to Mars."

At a lecture organized by the club on Jan. 23, Chris Gainor of the Royal Astronomical Society spoke about the history of missions to Mars since 1960, noting that two-thirds of them have blown up, crashed or simply lost contact.

Right now, American robot rovers Spirit and Opportunity are travelling along opposite sides of the planet. Europe's Mars Express flies overhead, returning stunning photos and proof of frozen water at Mars's south pole.

The current missions are eager to find signs Mars was once covered with water, because where there was water there may have once been life. Amber Church, a UVic student and representative from the Mars Society of Canada, said "If there's life, then this question of 'are we alone,' well–it's answered."

The Mars Society began in 1998, rooted in a book called *The Case for Mars* by Robert Zubrin. The book inspired Cory Horner, a fourth-year electrical engineering student, to revive the UVic chapter of the Society last year. "If you look at the universe, we're this tiny little dot," he said. "If we never get off the earth I'll be disappointed."

Cassie Holcomb of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory spoke on the similarities with our planet that make the study of Mars so fascinating. Like Earth, Mars has canyons, valleys, craters, volcanoes and storms. But it is also an exotic alien landscape, with a mountain three times the height of Mount Everest and dust storms which can rage over the entire surface of the planet for months.

CHLOE STRAW PHOTO

Chris Gainor and Cassie Holcomb wear 3-D glasses to view Spirit's stereoscopic pictures at the Jan. 23 UVic Mars Society talk.

With the success and relative cheapness of the rover missions, why send humans to Mars at all? "You can do chemistry. You can do experiments there to take rocks apart and find out exactly what they're made of," said Horner. This type of interaction is impossible with robots because of the 20 minute delay between sending a command and seeing the result.

Proponents of sending humans to Mars, including President Bush, believe it could be achieved with only a small increase to NASA's budget, by diverting funds from the space shuttle and space station programs. With a launch date of 2030 being discussed, this could be within most students' lifetimes.

The program to send humans to Mars would likely have a price tag of at least $100 billion in total, and media critics have argued the expense, even spread over 30 years and perhaps multiple countries, can't be justified.

Horner disagrees.

"Going to Mars is an investment. There's returns." A long list of technological and scientific advances have been spurred by preparing for manned space flight, including MRI, bone mass analyzers and automated bloodpressure tests–not to mention Tang.

"The most important thing is the number of people you motivate to get interested in science and technology," said Horner.

The UVic Mars Society meets next on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, both times at 4:30 p.m. in Clearihue, room D126. See chapters.marssociety.org/victoria

TIM MATHESON PHOTO

New book award brings $5000 to lucky local authors

BY MARK VARDY

Buddy up to your writer friends, one of them could soon be buying a few rounds.

Victoria city council is set to start dishing out a yearly $5,000 prize to the local author who pens the best book.

Council made an informal acceptance on Jan. 22 which virtually guaranteed the plan's approval at their Feb. 12 meeting,

"This is about supporting creativity in the community," said Bess Jillings, one of the volunteers who made it happen. "It's wonderful to go to council as a citizen and see the excitement around the project."

What began a few years ago as a handful of people talking about the need for a local literary award grew into the Victoria Book Prize Society, said Jillings. "It was established to see what was possible."

Now that the prize is going ahead, the society will set the rules, name the jurors and solicit entries, said Jillings, adding that the Victoria School of Writing will handle the mechanics of administration.

There are no separate categories. Poetry, fiction, non-fiction and children's books will compete against one another. The rules are simple: the author must have lived in the Victoria area for two years, and the book must be at least 48 pages long (except for children's books) and published by a recognized house. Textbooks, cookbooks, how-to books, anthologies and reprints are excluded from the running.

Librarians, publishers, academics and writers will be called upon as independent jurors, Jillings said.

Other Canadian cities have similar annual awards for books. Those in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto stipulate the book must pertain to the city. But not so in Victoria–the society doesn't want to restrict potential entries.

"It'll be a challenge for the jurors. They might have to compare a book of poetry to a novel for young adults," said John Gould, director of the Victoria School of Writing.

"The prize does a lot of things," said Gould, who presented a report on its feasibility to council. "It attracts attention to the writers because of the publicity and excitement that a prize generates. It creates a buzz. Ideally it gets people talking about the books that have been short-listed, comparing their feelings about them."

"It acknowledges that Victoria has a strong literary community," said Gould, who teaches in UVic's writing department and was recently nominated for the prestigious Giller prize. "It attracts critical attention for the short-listed authors, generates books sales, and doesn't hurt when going to find a publisher."

If council finalizes the plan as expected, the call for entries will go out soon after and a short list announced in September.

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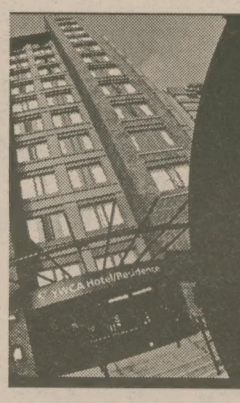

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Social assistance recipients unionize

by Noah Ross

The provincial government has another new thorn in its side–this one courtesy of government assistance beneficiaries.

The Welfare and Disability People's Union (WDPU) has been founded to empower people who are, or recently have been, on provincial government assistance and to advocate for income, health and housing.

"We want to build the ability and the tools so that we can do it ourselves," said one of the founders of the WDPU, who wanted to be known only as Tony.

The WDPU is based at the Action Committee of People with Disabilities (ACPD) office at 926 View St. and meets every Monday at 11:30. The union is still in the embryonic stage, trying to gather members and establish a plan of action.

"My vision for this group is to…create a self-organized base structure of welfare recipients, that they feel is their own," said Tony. "People can say, I'm in the WDPU, it will build dignity and bring people together so we can have a basis for action."

Carol Romanow, another one of the union's founders, says the union is open to anyone who is or has been on income assistance, whether for disability or welfare benefits. "When you have a government of tyranny on people who are already oppressed, they become even more oppressed, and people hide because of fear. If you can convince people to come out and be part of a larger group then the fear will be lessened," said Romanow, who has been on disability since 1993.

Currently the WDPU is focused on opposing the B.C. Liberals in their plan to close 28 income assistance offices, implement time limits for welfare recipients and cut family assistance. However, the union's founders are also intent on building a long-term self-advocacy group for current and former welfare and disability recipients.

Carol has worked as a frontline advocate for income assistance users since 1988, having spent five years working as an advocate in East Hastings and over 10 years at the ACPD. "I'm tired of abstracts, I want something immediate," said Carol Romanow. She maintains that there are around 400 homeless people in Victoria alone and many more in the surrounding communities.

Tony says that getting people out to WDPU meetings will be one of the Union's biggest challenges. "Most people on welfare and disability don't give a shit. We're not united. If we get together in a mass then we can move mountains," he said.

During the meeting on Monday, a dispute broke out when a man began to insist that immigrants were the real problem facing British Columbia. According to Tony, such beliefs are common among welfare recipients. "Most people on welfare are white males and most of them are racist and sexist. It's not that people are stupid, it's that they read the fucking newspaper everyday. The establishment is pitting us against each other. The immigrants are fighting the poor, and we're fighting them. There's a lot of racism. People are ignorant. A lot of our class's anger is directed at each other."

B.C. is the first province in Canada to impose time limits on welfare. The legislation imposing the time limits, which were implemented on April 1, 2002, states that single employable welfare-users will be allowed to receive welfare for only two years non-consecutively out of every five.

Although governmental figures have not been made public, Sparc BC, a Vancouver-based advocacy group, reports that there are 4,700 adult welfare recipients whose benefits will be cut off or reduced on April 1.

Journalist claims Iraqis happy with occupation

Audience of young journalists respond coolly to Globe *columnist Margarent Wente*

by John Thompson and Richard Warnica

Most Iraqi people want the United States to remain in Iraq until the country stabilizes, according to *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wente.

"Anyone who has a simple view of Iraq isn't worth listening to," Wente told a room full of student journalists at the National Canada University Press Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland last Friday.

The writer spent time in American-occupied Iraq last November as a correspondent, sending columns back to her Canadian newspaper.

Prior to becoming a columnist, Wente was the editor of the *Globe and Mail*'s Report on Business and the paper's managing editor. Since becoming a full time writer in 1999 she has been known for her often irreverent and distinctively conservative opinions.

Iraqis living in Canada first persuaded Wente that an American-led overthrow of Saddam Hussein wasn't necessary, she said. But "was probably a good thing."

One Iraqi, in Canada, Wente spoke to was a former academic who fled his country after a decade spent in jail for political persecution. He now sweeps floors in a Toronto warehouse, but still carries the scars from his prison experience–guards repeatedly fired a nail-gun into his feet while he stayed in his cell, which held up to 30 other men. During his time spent in prison, his parents believed he was dead.

"I never met an Iraqi exile who wasn't in favour of war," said Wente.

While in Iraq, Wente said those she interviewed initially condemned America's occupation of their country, but, when pressed, said they preferred the U.S presence over the rule of Saddam Hussein.

"Many Iraqis would look at you like you're nuts. Of course they're glad he's gone," she said.

She said the absence of any weapons of mass destruction in the country has embarrassed the Western countries who led the occupation, but it shouldn't invalidate the overthrow of a cruel dictator.

"There is no doubt that the absence of those weapons is a very, very difficult problem for the Americans and the British," she said. "On the other hand, did that make it wrong? I'm not so sure."

Wente warned that if Americans abandoned Iraq, their newly-formed government would soon collapse, spelling disaster for the country. She added most Iraqis she spoke with shared the same fears.

Rebuilding the country's destroyed infrastructure will be a challenge, she said, but not one as great as training Iraqis to think as independent citizens.

Living under the Hussein regime created "a society of psychic cripples," said Wente, telling the story of an oil refinery manager who struggled with the very idea of making decisions for himself.

"Rebuilding what happens in schools is far more important," she said.

Richard Warnica photo

***Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wente spoke to student journalists at a recent national conference.**

Her comments were coolly received by many of the students listening. One woman asked Wente if she found the "colonization of Iraq" entertaining.

Wente was criticized by the room of hopeful journalists for saying what Iraqis desire the most was a car, a television and a satellite dish, and for marveling at how Internet cafes now sprout across Tikrit, once Saddam Hussein's old stomping ground.

When the well-known contrarian was asked if she was becoming earnest, she replied, "You can't be ironic about this. Irony or snideness just won't do."

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EDITORIAL

Pastures for the privileged

Regardless of what you think of the tactics of student politicians, access to post-secondary education is a cause worth supporting.

Yup, we've all seen silly tuition protests. Maybe we've even participated in a few. Every February, students trot out on the legislature lawn, stand under the dreary sky and wave their yellow and blue placards. Student representatives yell righteously through loudspeakers. The media and government try to stifle their yawns. Nothing happens. After a few years, the whole charade has become a bit tedious.

If only students represented the interests of large corporations. Then, our provincial government would likely pay more attention. "Boohoo, we have to pay more," bleated corporate British Columbia to Gordon Campbell, who delivered huge tax cuts the moment he was elected.

Instead, the B.C. Liberals are dismissive of student protests, knowing that the Canadian Federation of Students has always been closely allied with their ideological arch-foes, the New Democrats.

Students have similar troubles persuading the public that university funding is a priority. When the B.C. government threatened to cut back support for the elderly, they provoked a huge public outrage and rescinded their plans. No such reservoir of sympathy exists for students because everyone knows most university students come from privileged backgrounds.

That's why the unbelievable rhetoric used by some student leaders doesn't help. It's condescending to think the public will believe most students live in hovels and subsist entirely on Kraft Dinner, especially when our lobbyists use slickly-drawn caricatures of the premier drawn by a professional cartoonist.

The fact is universities have always been pastures for the privileged and are only becoming more so.

More than 30 years ago, Professor John Porter argued in his book, The Vertical Mosaic, that Canada was selling itself short by placing financial barriers in front of needy students. He went on to say that the country was intellectually bankrupting itself by allowing brilliant minds from low-income families to become plumbers while opening the university gates to Luddites with large family coffers.

We are the privileged. Some of us don't care about rising tuition fees because mommy and daddy are helping us through. Others don't care because we're working our asses off at a part-time job and we feel we have no time to waste on trite cartoons of Gordon Campbell riding a phallic rocket.

Still, Porter's argument holds true today. The B.C. Liberal government is creating a post-secondary education system that prevents students from modest backgrounds from getting a good education. Those that make a go of it find themselves so far in debt that they have to grab the first McJob they can find once they graduate.

That's the reason we need to get off our asses on Feb. 4. No longer can anyone with enough smarts get ahead in this country and rise to the top. They either have to be brilliant or loaded.

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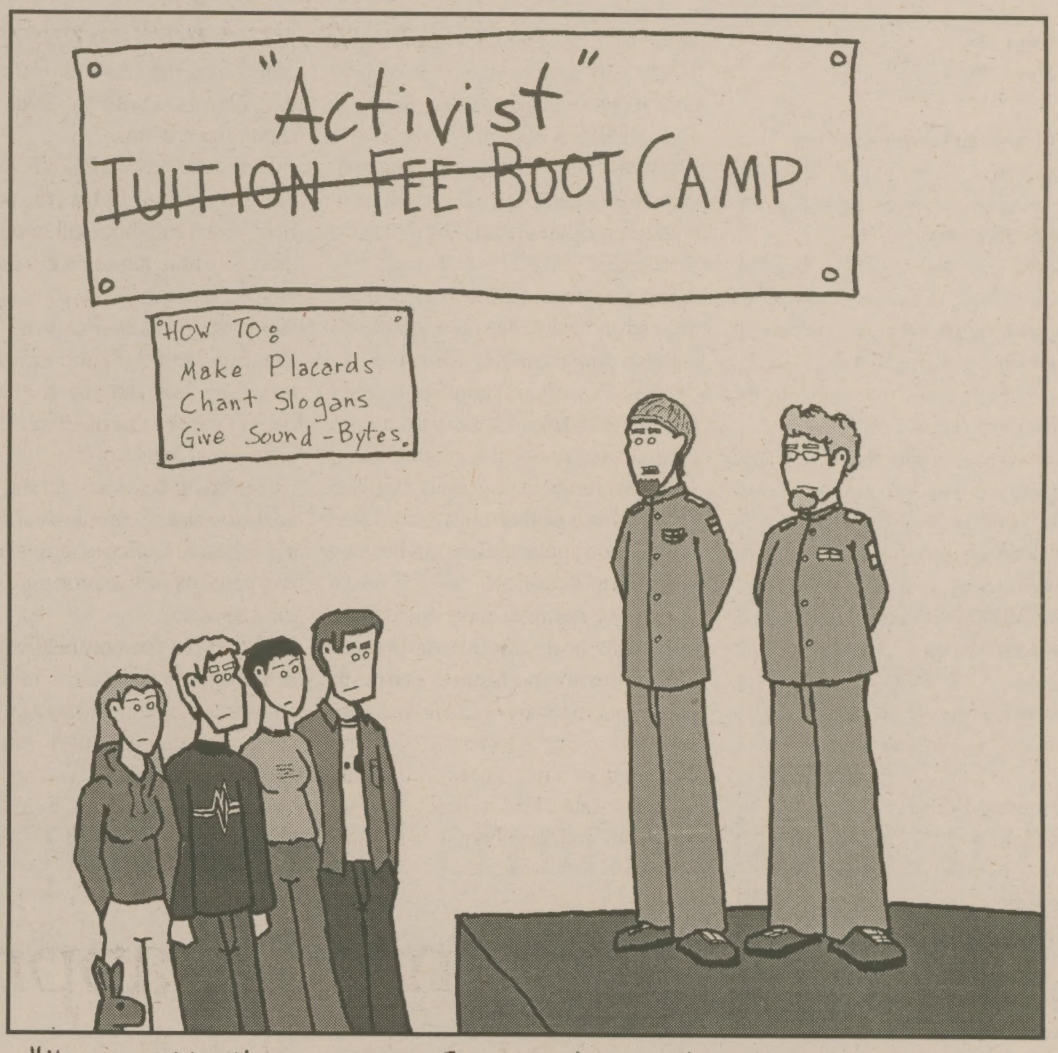

"Now, pay attention everyone. Follow our instructions carefully and by the end of your training, you'll be able to put on quite a show for Mr. Campbell. Let's hope he gives a shit."

LETTERS

Liberal membership drive voluntary

Dear Editor,

I would like to set the record straight concerning liberal student memberships in the Jan. 15, 2004 edition of the Martlet.

Firstly, in researching their article on student liberal members, neither Patrich White nor Bryna Hallam managed to contact me to ask for my input into an article which not only distorted the facts but also made wrongful allegations. The report itself is therefore quite misleading.

In order to join the Liberal Party of Canada in British Columbia, one must sign the membership form and pay the required fee. The party only sends out membership cards after these criteria have been met.

Both gentlemen quoted in the article had expressed interest in the Liberal Party. They were both aware of what they were doing when they signed the forms clearly stating that they wished to "stand for election as a delegate to the 2002 Liberal Party of Canada in British Columbia Concention." In order to stand for election as a delegate, one must be a registered member of both the university Liberal club as well as a member of the party. I have copies of both of their signed forms.

I hope that this will clear up any misconceptions and set the record straight concerning memberships. You must sign and pay for a membership before a card is issued.

I would be pleased to answer any further questions you have.

Sincerely, Ivan Watson
Past President,
UVic Federal Young Liberals

Jennifer McFee, champion of the Arts

Bravo, Jennifer! At last, someone not afraid to support the ailing arts, and gender equality as well. As a male with an English/History degree, I am proof that one can graduate with such a background and survive. After leaving UVic in 1995, I worked in mental health, then got a BSW from Regina. Since then I have worked in the Social Work field, focussing now on Employment counselling. In addition, I have one year towards my Masters in Divinity at the Vancouver School of Theology at UBC–something that an arts degree helps with immensely!

The teacher who snickered at those who take arts is a victim of having a shallow mind. They may know about calculus and statistics (eww!!) but has probably forgotten the joy of an aria, or the wonder of a dolphin at play. Remember what many astronauts and cosmonauts have said upon viewing the earth through their space capsule's window–they should have sent a poet.

I am glad you wrote this article. I especially liked your idea about encouraging men into the arts. I would also add the social services to that; there are few men in my field, and it would be good to have more.

Perhaps you and some friends can get an idea off the ground at UVSS. It might not fly at first, but then, remember that new ideas are often scoffed at. Ask any suffragette.

Keep opening those doors, Jennifer.

Sincerely,
David P. Morgan,
Class of 1995.

UVic Board of Governors side with Campbell

As we approach the latest annual round of skyrocketing tuition hikes which are so central to Gordon Campbell's "New Era" vision of post-secondary education in British Columbia, we might examine how such draconian decisions are being made here at UVic, and consider student reaction to the proposed first-time institution of tuition fees over in Europe.

To date, in civilized, progressive European countries, a university education is free.

In December, there were massive student demonstrations all across Germany. Students swam down rivers with huge banners, occupied the mayor of Berlin's house, and scaled the roof of the German parliament in Berlin protesting about the proposed fees. Today, the Tony Blair government is on the verge of collapse by backbencher revolt over this serious issue.

Meanwhile, here at UVic, there's an attitude of indifference towards this issue which will see this university transformed into an institution of pampered, cosseted students whose wealthy parents pay for their education. Anyone who struggles to pay for their own education will recognize the problem.

I just have to ask the UVic faculty what they were thinking, electing two tired old troglodytes, Bill Pfaffenburger and Tom Cleary, to UVic's Board of Governors. These lemmings have consistently voted along with the rest of the Gordon Campbell-appointed BOG, and his administration's lackeys, and faithfully supported every motion involving the raising of tuition at UVic.

Has the UVic faculty actually given these guys a mandate to cooperate with Gordon Campbell to work against their own struggling students?? These faculty reps should be recalled immediately!

Students in Europe appreciate that a university education is both a human right and a privilege. Unfortunately for UVic students, a university education is now pretty much limited to the privileged.

Cheers, Ingmar Lee

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Religions still dictate marriage laws

'Queer-rights activists have now brought the issue to Parliament'

BY KEVIN WALBY

Religious fervor has again erupted over the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons' (LGBT) rights to marriage.

Today, even if a person considers themselves non-religious, their justifications for excluding LGBT people are still primarily rooted in religiosity. In the Old Testament, Leviticus laments, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death."

Like it or not, these ancient beliefs have influenced our identities and institutions. In the United States, it was only on June 26, 2003 that the Supreme Court declared sodomy and buggery laws unconstitutional. In fact 14 states, Puerto Rico, and the American military had anti-homosexual laws up until the 2003 ruling Lawrence v. Texas.

Here in Canada, LGBT persons have individual rights to practice their sexuality, but still face huge prejudice and abuse from the heterosexual majority, in the forms of hate crimes and everyday exclusion. The prevalence of homophobia in our society is due to the fear of LGBT activity inscribed in both the biblical and legal books.

Religious groups across the country–Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and other, minority religions–organized protests of the proposed same-sex legislation.

A 6,000 plus person rally was held on Parliament hill. In the new legislation, marriage would be defined as "the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all other" instead of lawful union between a man and women.

How can religious groups claim to endorse the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and at the same time not grant equality to LGBT persons when it comes to marriage?

The reason is because, up until now, religious norms of society have prevented the need for politically addressing the question of same-sex union. Queer-rights activists have now brought the issue to Parliament, and homophobic persons can no longer depend on Canada's institutions to control the appearance of heterosexual society. The new argument of religious groups is that "same-sex marriage legislation is an affront to the rights of our religion."

Neither the Canadian Constitution nor the American Constitution has much to say about group rights, let alone the collective religious rights.

Rights talks in Canada have an individual orientation, as opposed to a group or collective orientation. Section 2a of the Charter grants the fundamental freedom of conscience and religion. These rights are granted to individuals, not groups. So when religious groups claim LGBT union is an affront to their collective rights, they misinterpret their religious rights.

It is an injustice to deny LGBT people the same rights as heterosexuals.

Section 15.1 of the Charter says, "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

Sexual orientation should be added to this list if our Constitution is to be seen as just.

Government-approved suicide

'Funding the nation with the blood money coughed up by smokers'

BY MITCH LEBLANC

The government is supposed to protect the people that it represents, but sometimes our collective well-being is ignored so they can fatten up their coffers.

It really doesn't matter which political party is in power. None of them mind funding the nation with the blood money coughed up by smokers.

In Canada and its provinces, governments create laws to ensure the safety of their citizens. In the past, we have seen helmet laws introduced for both cyclists and motorcyclists. Across the nation mandatory seatbelt laws prevent us from being thrown from our vehicles when our cars inadvertently collide with each other.

Up to half of all smokers will die from smoking-related illnesses, according to Health Canada. However, the government still allows smokers to willingly degrade their health in this manner. Imagine if one out of every two people who boarded an airplane died in crashes. Not only would there be a serious rise in people riding the trains, but the government would quickly pass some sort of law requiring higher safety standards.

Of course, the government has a very good reason for continuing to allow the public this option of slow suicide–it brings in a ton of tax revenue. Not only are the tobacco companies paying income tax directly to the provincial and federal governments, but there are also huge amounts of tax incorporated into the price of cigarettes and then, of course, GST. In fact, the GST is applied to the tobacco tax as well, so the government is really raking in the cash.

The government pretends that it is interested in the well-being of Canadians and continuously passes token laws meant to lull us into believing they're acting responsibly. There are now beautiful photos of diseased mouths and blackened lungs plastered all over Canadian cigarettes. This, and lame televised anti-smoking campaigns, are what the government considers an intensive effort at preventing young people from smoking.

Unfortunately, they have failed miserably. More high school students smoke now than in the early 1990s, resulting in more provincial and federal cash at the expense of these young nicotine addicts.

Smokers deplete health resources. It surprises me that with the government being impacted by debt on a regular basis that they have failed to really address the connection between smokers and the lack of funds available in the healthcare system. Three million people will have their lives cut short by smoking, and those people are going to use up resources that our cash-strapped healthcare system may have difficulty affording.

Smoking is an addiction that experts say is more difficult to kick than heroine, and the government is fueling that addiction by not actively trying to prevent it from blackening lungs. It is little better than the way that the tobacco companies once directed their advertising at teenagers. They should make a stand and phase out smoking. It is already becoming less accepted socially–it is now time to make it less acceptable legally.

The red planet or earth's oceans debate

'I don't expect that we'll find bug-eyed monsters on Mars'

BY STEVEN MASUCH

In response to the Jan. 22 *Martlet* article "Mars vs. ocean," I'd argue that Mr. LeBlanc doesn't understand the purpose of space exploration. He says we shouldn't go to Mars for two reasons: "the quality of human life disintegrates before our very eyes" and there's "great wonders that we haven't even begun to discover" in the Earth's oceans.

Despite the optimism in Mr. LeBlanc's description of oceanic exploration, it's not as exciting as it sounds. There is no Atlantis waiting to be found–the ocean floor has been mapped out extensively. There may be new types of fish and sea-worms hidden at the bottom of the sea, but it's unlikely that there'll be any big surprises.

Even if the ocean was explored, colonized and mined for resources would that really be a good thing? The ocean is home to some of the most fragile ecosystems on the planet. Sure, the ocean is "full of life" now, but undersea mining and colonization would change that in a hurry.

Whether Bush is serious about going into space is debatable. There was no mention of his space program in the latest State of the Union address, and he isn't known for honouring his promises. The notion of a man on Mars is probably just a hook to entice the space-dork vote. Still, it's important not to let politics obscure exploration.

There are still plenty of problems on Earth, as last week's article points out. However, and this may be a radical idea for Mr. LeBlanc, the entire will of humanity does not need to be focused on one problem in order to fix the world. For example, a doctor can work on curing a disease while, at the same time, a rocket scientist makes a space probe. People are already working on curing disease, ending hunger and stabilizing the population. Why not explore space at the same time?

Of course, I don't expect that we'll find bug-eyed monsters on Mars waiting to teach us the secret of the universe. It's more about exploration and reaching out than finding more resources to use. I'd rather have an imperfect world reaching outwards for knowledge than a perfect world gazing at its own navel. In a utopia, there's nowhere to go but down.

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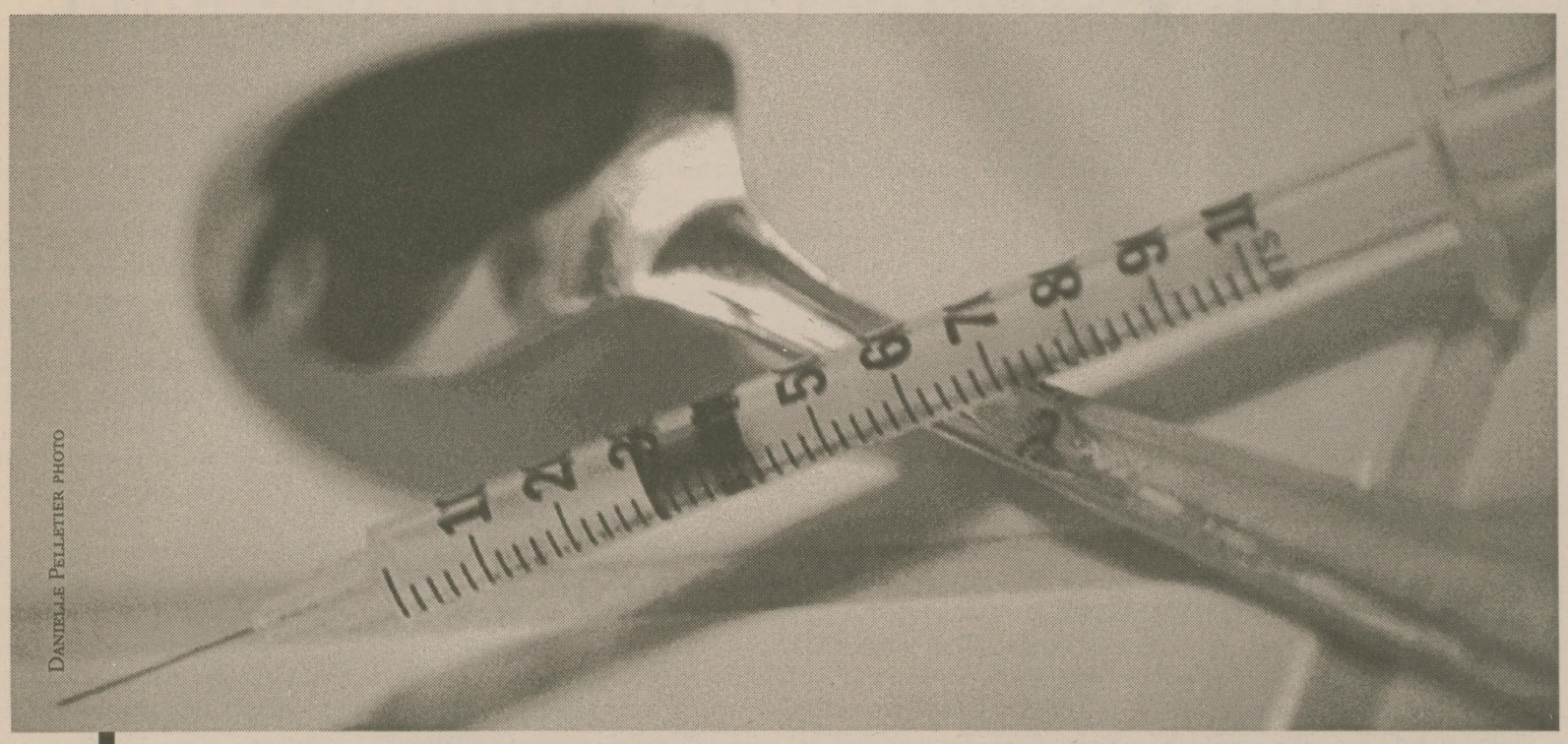


DANIELLE PELLETIER PHOTO

'I was put on this earth to do something–and it isn't heroin'

Victoria methadone clinic a 'godsend' for recovering addicts

BY MARJORIE CELONA

Once an addict, always an addict. That's what Allan Douglas used to believe.

On a rainy night in December, the 33-year-old carpenter walks through the glass doors of Shopper's Drug Mart on Burnside and Wascana and enters a small room off the pharmacist's counter marked "Employees Only."

"Hi, Allan," the pharmacist says and hands him a small brown bottle out of a mini fridge.

Douglas drinks it, throws it in the trash. "See ya tomorrow."

Every night for the past year, Douglas has come to the pharmacy after work for his daily dose of methadone, a synthetic opioid used to treat heroin addiction.

But since Dec. 23, when he took his last dose, he has been both heroin- and methadone-free thanks to the methadone program at the Outreach Services Clinic in Victoria.

"This is the first time I've been clean off any drug since age nine," says Douglas, who asked to have his name changed for privacy. "I'm so tired of it."

Douglas's recovery began in 1996 when he first walked in the door of the small clinic on Fernwood Road. "I went in and said, 'I'm a heroin addict.'"

At the clinic's office, there are two worn-in couches, a coffee table with the *Times-Colonist* strewn about and a plastic rack filled with pamphlets on methadone, depression and trauma. Posters for counselling seminars and support-group meetings adorn the white brick walls.

In one corner, a shelf stacked high with loaves of bread reads, "Help yourself: but please 2 bags per person. Thanx." In another corner, a box of mostly children's clothing displays the sign, "Only one bag of clothing per person from this donation box."

It's a Friday afternoon and the clinic closes at 2 p.m., but director Brian Oswald says he wants to leave the door open, "just in case."

Oswald has been the clinic's owner since 1994 and has treated between 600 and 700 people for opiate addiction. At present, the clinic has 400 clients.

He says Douglas's recovery would have been unheard of 10 years ago when methadone was only prescribed to addicts over the age of 30 who had used intravenously for 10 years. Douglas started using when he was 25 and approached the clinic when he was 26.

Since the early '90s, Oswald has fought to make methadone treatment available to youth and people just starting heroin.

"It's better to get out of it faster," Oswald says. "Let's say I receive an application from a 15-year old who's hooking–it's like, okay, let's get this person in."

He's also trying to change the stereotypes associated with methadone–that it's a last-ditch effort when other treatment methods, like abstinence and counselling, have failed.

"Let's stop saying the client just hasn't tried hard enough," he says. "These are mostly just people who are hurting. It doesn't take long to get a physical addiction–before you know it, you don't see past the next fix, the next day."

Methadone is the most widely used form of treatment for people addicted to opiates, a class of pain-relieving drugs such as morphine, heroin and codeine.

Heroin, called "junk," "H," and "down," is a white or brown powder that is injected, sniffed or smoked. Users feel euphoric, warm and heavy-limbed.

Withdrawal, which occurs as early as a few hours after injection, produces an intense drug craving: restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, cold flashes and twitching limbs.

Since 1992, methadone treatment has seen a 600 per cent increase in enrolment in Canada. About 10,000 British Columbians are registered methadone users.

In British Columbia, the methadone program is regulated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which works with clinics such as Oswald's, local pharmacies and doctors licensed by Health Canada.

"Methadone is one of the more successful strategies of keeping opiate addicts from relapsing," says Dr. Neil Rockerbie, who has been prescribing methadone for 12 years and sees between 80 and 90 patients in Greater Victoria.

Authorities estimate the capital region has 1,500 to 2,000 intravenous drug users.

But Rockerbie says methadone is just part of a complex program that requires counselling and 12-step programs.

"This is a treatment that takes years," he says. "Think of it this way: if you have high blood pressure, you'll probably never come off your medication."

Since coming off the methadone, Douglas has taken an over-the-counter sleep aid to reduce heart palpitations and sweating.

"The last thing I want to do is get sick," he says. "I want to make it. I want to go through as little pain as possible at this point."

Rockerbie says it isn't the methadone that's so hard to get off of, it's addiction in general. "One of the hallmarks of addiction is a lack of control."

"Yes, we're moving people from one drug to another," says Oswald. "But [methadone] is prescribed, it's managed. We're strict with how we administer the methadone."

Methadone users take their medication in front of the pharmacist and only receive one dose at a time, reducing the risk of overdose and of it being sold on the street.

It's also longer-acting than heroin, so users only need one dose every 24 hours. Patients can feel pain and emotions, and it's not intoxicating or sedating.

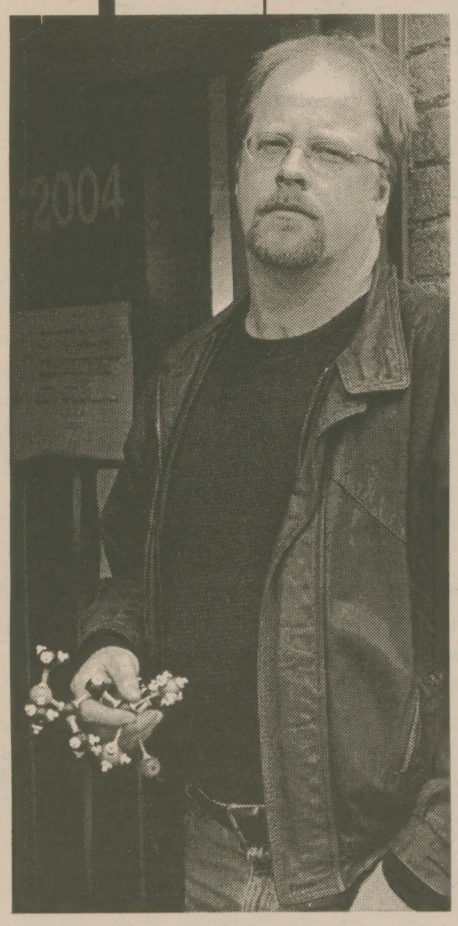
Because it's taken orally, usually mixed with an orange drink, it eliminates needles and the risk of HIV and Hepatitis infection.

"Tastes like orange Tang," says Douglas, who had to go to the clinic every two weeks for a urine test to prove he wasn't using opiates.

"If you're smart and you've used [heroin], you tell them. The proof is in the piss.

"I've had the intermittent fuck-up. But there's a big difference between fucking up and doing heroin every day."

To qualify for the B.C. methadone program, applicants fill out a three-page questionnaire about their drug habit and list other treatment programs they've tried.



Brian Oswald, director of the Outreach Services Clinic in Victoria. Oswald's clinic is currently treating over 400 people for opiate addiction.

A urine sample is left with the initial paperwork, then two subsequent samples once every two days. The urine must test "hot" for opiates.

"Methadone doesn't do anything for cocaine, for example," says Oswald. "It's a different class of drugs. Heroin hits the endorphins–like sex and running."

Once patients are assessed by the clinic's staff, they are referred to a doctor licensed to prescribe methadone who makes the final decision and decides the appropriate dosage.

The clinic charges its clients $70 per month and $28 for clients on welfare.

"I hate that we have to charge people for this, but we get no government funding," Oswald says. "We're pretty flexible, though–we don't want to be a collection agency for society's poorest."

Douglas says he was initially hesitant to seek help from the clinic.

"I heard so many stories that it was better to detox cold turkey," he says.

"But I've never met someone who'd done it–they all ended up back on it, in jail, or dead."

Both Rockerbie and Oswald say it's hard to offer statistics on the program's success.

"Most people ask, 'how many patients have remained clean?' and I have to say, very few. But if you ask how many have stayed out of jail or cleaned up their life–well, quite a few," says Rockerbie.

The bottom line is it's better than untreated heroin addiction, which accounted for a third of HIV infection in Canada in 1999 and 70 per cent of an estimated $1.37 billion in illicit drug-use cost.

According to Health Canada, the death rate for people not receiving treatment is more than three times higher than for those engaged in treatment.

Douglas has been in and out of treatment since 1996, when he first approached the clinic. He was put on 30 mg of methadone a day, but felt so sick that he started using heroin again to control the withdrawal.

"It feels like bugs are crawling around in the marrow of your bones. And if you shoot up, it ends like that," he says, snapping his fingers.

He spent the next year doing heroin.

"I had to shoot up three or four times a day just to keep myself from being sick–I was a bit of a horse. I'd do two to three grams a day–that's like $400 a day," he says.

"The main reason I did [heroin] was because of emotional trauma–physical and sexual abuse. It was a way of avoiding pain.

"Heroin is the ultimate painkiller. It's the king of painkillers. You can walk around naked in the dead of winter and not even feel it."

Oswald says people get stuck thinking that they are bad because they were abused.

"I see addiction as a response to pain. If we eliminate human misery, we'll eliminate addiction. I don't see either of those things changing, unfortunately.

"If people want to help, well, stop calling them junkies. It's like saying nigger or fag."

There's a knock at the door, and a man pokes his head inside.

"Are you closed?" he asks.

"We're open for you," Oswald says and gets up from his chair. "When people come in, we drop whatever we're doing to help them."

After a year of using heroin, Douglas says his behaviour started to scare him.

"I didn't want to break the law, break into homes, suck dick–whatever people do. I didn't want to get a disease–I pricked myself with some skuzzy guy's needle once and thought, that's it, I gotta get back on the program."

Catherine Day, a former heroin and cocaine addict, says it often takes a few tries at the clinic to make it work. "I was back three or four times over about five years," she says.

Day, 39, now works as a receptionist at the clinic and has been drug-free for three years since receiving methadone treatment.

She says she spent $700 a day on heroin and cocaine and used as many as 50 needles a day. "When I finally got clean, I realized I had to deal with the past–the guilt and the regret is what kills you."

She's now doing a master's degree in counselling psychology and hopes that one day she can be a counsellor at the clinic.

"I know what it feels like to walk around as a junkie. It's a big knot. At the clinic, you can untangle the mess."

While Douglas has been drug-free since Christmas, he says his battle is far from over.

"If you haven't addressed the emotional side of it, well, you're just a dry drunk."

He has seen a personal counsellor for two years, sometimes twice a week, and attends therapy including Narcotics Anonymous and Methadone Anonymous.

"I've used whatever I could to get help," he says. "I looked around me at all the people who didn't care anymore–I watched a guy shoot peanut oil in his veins 'cause he heard you could get high.

"I was a sick, scared little kid that just wanted to run, but a part of me knew that I was put on this earth to do something–and it isn't heroin."

When he approached the clinic again about a year ago, he was prescribed 110 mg of methadone.

"It wasn't a 'let's-get-high' dose," he says. "It just kept me from getting sick."

He was gradually weaned off methadone and has been drug-free for just over a month.

"It's up and down. The night is the worst–my legs are kicking, twitching–it's like coming off heroin, but subtler.

"The clinic is a godsend. I've never been happier in my life."

Oswald hopes more people will seek help for their addiction.

"If people have a problem with heroin, just come talk to us. It's a scary thing to go for help, but I think we're pretty approachable."

He says his work is about believing in change, hope and talent.

"My wish is for people to not lose their idealism. We need idealists. We need people to believe in the unbelievable."

Heroin withdrawal, which occurs as early as a few hours after injection, produces an intense drug craving. Methadone, by contrast, only requires one dose every 24 hours, and is not intoxicating or sedating. Because it's taken orally, it eliminates needles and the risk of HIV infection.

Where to Get Help in Victoria

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Victoria Clinic, Adult Outpatient Counselling, #228-1250 Quadra St., (250) 387-5077
Narcotics Anonymous (250) 383-3553
Crisis and Information Line, for people in emotional crisis (250) 386-6323

Intravenous Drugs Facts

- 125,000 Canadians use intravenous drugs–15,000 in B.C. The most commonly injected drugs are cocaine and heroin.
- 210,000–275,000 Canadians have Hepatitis C. 70 per cent of these individuals are current or former users of IV drugs.
- 4,500 new Hepatitis C infections occur annually in Canada. At least 63 per cent are related to injection drug use.
- One third of new HIV infections in 1999 were related to injection drug use.

from Canada's Drug Strategy, *Health Canada.*
For more info, visit the Methadone Center's website: http://www.methadonecenters.com

Atwood explodes out of the sci-fi closet

BY DANIEL SAUNDERS

Oryx and Crake
Margaret Atwood
McClelland & Stewart

Margaret Atwood's new novel, *Oryx and Crake*, raises the possibility that the best way to write science fiction may be to pretend you aren't.

Atwood has continually denied in interviews that the book is science fiction, which in her mind is "people flying around on dragons, other worlds of strange lifeforms."

This would be an insult to the modern authors of challenging and sophisticated science fiction–who, unlike her, remain ghettoized in Sci-Fi/Fantasy sections– except that this book can sit with the greatest accomplishments of the genre.

In the ruins of human civilization, overgrown by nature, there is a village of not-quite-humans who seemed to have been created blessed. They live on grass and leaves, and mate only a few times a year when their genitals turn blue, in a system that precludes jealousy and unrequited lust. The males even have piss that acts as a predator repellant.

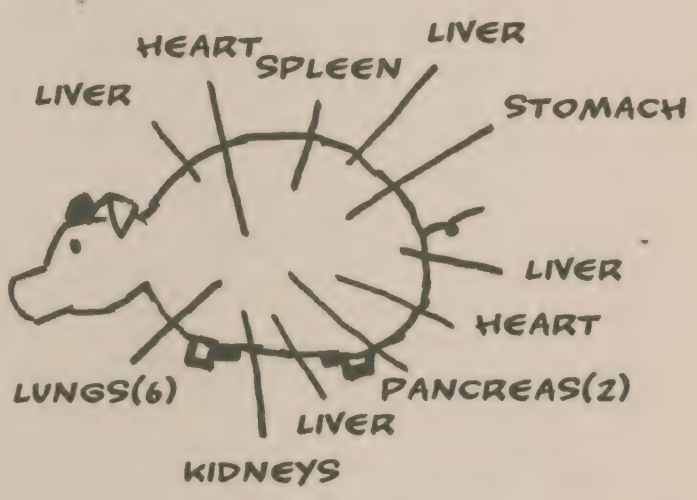
Their prophet, the one who holds the key to where they came from, is Snowman, the last human on earth. But rather than guiding them or working on his continued survival, he's more interested in scavenging alcohol to drink himself into oblivion, and reminiscing on the world that led to this.

He remembers a world of the very near future, after advances in genetic engineering now on the horizon have hit like a tsunami. The most powerful entities on the planet are biotech companies, since they control the technology of aging and life, like cloning human organs inside bloated pig creatures called pigoons.

The best and the brightest design new species at universities that are indistinguishable from company R&D departments. The educated classes live in protected compounds, like gated communities, except they must also be gated against hostile engineered viruses– the new life sciences have led to new domestic terrorism and paranoia.

Snowman recalls a boyhood playing genocidal video games (including "Kwiktime Osama") with his friend Crake and watching websites broadcasting public executions and animal torture. As they grow up, Snowman doesn't question much, but the brilliant Crake begins to think the darkest thoughts about human nature, especially when he falls in love with a woman, Oryx, who tells the story of how her third-world village sold her into child prostitution. Working his way into the DNA-manipulating elite, eventually Crake is in a position to do something about it.

Like all the best science fiction, *Oryx and Crake* is about today. All of us, whether we know it or not, have a line when it comes to genetic manipulation and its use for profit, and corporations like Monsanto will be pushing hard on that line, with PR and persistence, for the rest of our lives. Snowman as a young man is shown a prototype chicken breast that grows without a chicken, with just the minimum nerve centre required to control its circulation. He's grossed out, but then a year later finds himself happily eating his bucket of "ChickieNobs" from the same source.



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

Pigoons, the white meat that might also contain human organs, from Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*.

Many of Atwood's biotechnology predictions are not new to fiction, and the bio-apocalypse scenario certainly isn't, but what is exceptional is the care she takes in developing each of her extrapolations from the pages of nature and daily news headlines. Furthermore, as a novelist of emotions and characters, she fills the book with psychological insight rarely found in the genre.

If Margaret Atwood had thought she was writing science fiction, not having read Greg Egan, Ursula Le Guin, or Octavia Butler she might have decided it meant she didn't have to be rigorous in her invention, or morally serious, and that her characters could be cardboard cutouts and her prose flat. Instead she produced an important novel with wit and anger about what the new biotechnologies will do to us, and worse, how we'll get used to it.

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UVic music student prepares like a 'madwoman'

BY REBECCA MICHALUK

PROVIDED PHOTO

Emily Thompson plans to speak at her recital, which is unusual. "I get more out of the experience of listening to music when I have the chance to hear what has inspired them, or their reason for picking the piece."

Emily Thompson is practicing viola like a madwoman right now. I know because she lives across the hall from me.

In fact, everyone in this 100-year-old apartment building knows it. But it isn't annoying. Unlike pop music, viola music travels through the walls beautifully, which is good because she plays in the afternoon, at night and at five in the morning.

Emily Thompson is preparing for her final exam. As a requirement for an undergraduate degree in music performance at UVic, she is expected to prepare and perform three pieces of music. Her recital should last about an hour, and it is free and open to the public. A few members of the music faculty will also be in the audience, evaluating her performance. They will give her a pass or fail grade.

Thompson cannot say exactly what her graders will be looking for. "In a way I don't have to know," she says. "I just have to do my best. In a way, it's what I'm looking for. I want a depth of sound, and a line that is compelling–it affects me, it affects you, it affects us."

She has never done a recital by herself, though she has performed in front of audiences for 19 years with various quartets or orchestras.

"Hell yeah, I'm nervous," she says. "But I don't want you to know that. I don't want the audience or anyone to know. Whatever you experience as the performer is what is being experienced by the audience. For example, wouldn't it make you uncomfortable to see me on stage shaking in my boots?" To combat her nervousness, Thompson says she just has to accept that the music has it's own spirit. Right now she is doing meditation and visualization to help her.

"The reality is, you can be really well-prepared, but if you get nervous and stumble…you never know. And then there's other people who will have their moment of greatness when it counts the most." Thompson feels lucky to belong to the latter. "I tend to do better when there is something at stake."

She admits there is a lot riding on this recital. "It's like a dissertation, except that it's open to the public. You can't go back and correct any mistakes, you're right there in that moment."

Thompson has been playing music for 19 of her 23 years. She started playing the violin when she was four, but at 14 she switched to the viola.

The viola is like the violin, but bigger and has a deeper sound. "I don't have the high end of the register that the violin has…but the viola has a kind of melancholy, rich, low end. I would say that is the appeal for me. It has a depth of sound I really enjoy."

After high school, she began her degree at UVic. Though music was what she was good at, the program was still very demanding. An average day consists of classes in the morning, such as theory and quartet practice, rehearsals in the afternoon and four hours of practice time each night. This intense practice schedule can lead to physical consequences. When playing the viola you are always asymmetrically positioned, which can result in back and muscle problems. Thompson also has a deep, permanent abrasion on her chin.

Majoring in music, like any fine art, can also be time and emotionally consuming. "It's not enough for me to just play the notes," she says. "Its not enough for me to be even technically secure. I have to be emotionally convinced in order to be convincing."

Thompson has been very happy with her UVic experience. "The string department is very good quality,' she says. "There is a real sense of camaraderie. That's not the same with a lot of schools I know in Canada. I've never been undermined by my colleagues."

That's nice to hear, considering the music department has auditions twice a semester for seat placement in UVic's orchestra.

Thompson plans to speak at her recital, which is unusual. "I get more out of the experience of listening to music when I have the chance to hear what has inspired them, or their reason for picking the piece. I would like to share that," she says.

You don't have to understand classical music to enjoy the performance, says Thompson, you just have to know what it means to you.

For example, the piece that has been haunting me through the apartment wall sounds like crying to me. "That's good," she tells me. That piece was written by Bella Bartok in the 1940s, she says. "He wrote it as he was dying in exile. He didn't finish it, and one of his students finished it for him. It's a very dark piece and you can tell he is really coming to terms with what is happening to him. He will go down in history as being one of the great composers… And there [were] so many composers in the twentieth century."

So that's what's been keeping me awake at night.

Violist Emily Thompson presents her Bachelor of Music graduating recital on Feb. 3 at 8:00 p.m. at the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission is free.

Gumshoe struts into mediocrity

BY TYLER J. LEMMON

The Gumshoe Strut
Let's Get Dangerous
Peanuts and Corn Records

***The Gumshoe Strut* is smut. And by smut we mean garbage.**

The latest offering from Vancouver-based Peanuts and Corn Records is the thematic double-EP Let's Get Dangerous from Winnipeg artist The Gumshoe Strut. Twelve tracks deep, the album is divided into two sections that deal with Gumshoe's issues with authority and his fascination with death.

Although the blueprint seems interesting, the final product is a sloppy concoction of boring wordplay and forced, unimaginative hooks. For example, on the cut "Worse in the World," a song dealing with being poor, Gumshoe's best attempt at a simile is the awful: "[Rich people] stay protected by a shell like a turtle." It is this sort of lyrical wordplay that, by comparison, makes Master P look like mixtape-king Lloyd Banks.

The album also falters on tracks such as "Dead in the Water" which demonstrate a lack of actual rhyming ability, which is substituted by abstract lyrics. This is an annoying trend of underground rap that has been bubbling over recently in the form of "backpacker" acts such as Aesop Rock and Sage Francis.

Although he has some interesting themes and thoughts, Gumshoe finds it hard to keep up with the beat on the opening track entitled "Uggghh!" and his lack of punchlines and inconsistent flow lead you to believe his lyrics would be better suited to a poetry reading than a hip-hop open-mic session.

Bright spots on this album are the guest appearances, as Peanuts and Corn teammates Yy and Pip Skid sufficiently hold down the fort on their respective tracks, and the two interludes are jazzy and easy on the ear. The double-EP's themes of authority and death make for interesting subject matter, but the subject of authority is better addressed through NWA's earlier work, as well as the mixtapes of current revolutionaries Dead Prez. For anyone interested in the subject of death, I'd recommend leaving this album on the shelf and copping Styles P's A Gangsta and a Gentleman.

With Peanuts and Corn dropping new product all the time, perhaps The Gumshoe Strut should put the mic down and stay behind the boards for future releases. Either that or step his rap game up.

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Simple Minds glorified on DVD

by Ryan Rutley

Simple Minds' discography.

A recent dip into *the Martlet*'s DVD stock furnished me with an exciting but confusing gem–*Seen The Lights: A Visual History*, a two-DVD box set full of nothing but Simple Minds music.

I probably speak for many of us when I say that, true to the song's entreat, I didn't forget about "Don't You Forget About Me" but never bothered to check out anything beyond that song. A recommendation from a friend and fellow new wave junkie, as well as peer-pressure from *the Martlet's* staff, intrigued me enough to give'r the proverbial spin.

So how do you review what amounts to the entire back catalog–in videos and live footage–of a band you know nothing about, especially when you're no more familiar with writing reviews of any kind? Do I critique the videos? Their live performance? Their style? Just the music? The comprehensiveness of the compilation? Do I write for the hardcore fan and end up with a hack job, or do I aim it to the casual music fan and still come off as a pretentious geek?

The short answer is yes.

The long answer is as follows.

The band: I like 'em, but with a clear preference for the early material. In fact, the earlier the better. Think of a dance-funk rhythm section with delayed-and-chorused-out guitars, '80s-as-you-wanna-be synth, and the essential pasty, spazzy, skinny Brit of a front man Jim Kerr. They serve as a reminder that in the '80s it didn't matter how much of a dork you were as long as you wore pastels, flipped up your collar and wore eyeliner. I'm sure a lead singer who can't snap his fingers in time to their own music, a guitarist with painfully awkward stage dancing and a bass player with a glorious blonde mullet did nothing to impede their meteoric rise to fame (rock cliché #37), but in fact fueled it.

I'm doing a shoddy job of praising them, but they carry it off so well. Anyone who plays *Vice City* and digs its aesthetic would be a hypocrite to deny the rad that is the first quarter of the videos is so new wave that my eyes melted out, but in a good way. The first, "Love Song," is set in a nightclub full of, well, it's a nightclub in the '80s and that's all you need to know. And a woman hits her dining parter with a flounder. I'm not making this up. "Promised You A Miracle" is a wonder of contemporary technology, consisting mostly of the band performing in black and white, composited onto the colour test pattern. Brilliant! The juxtaposition! The mastery of technology! The artful composition!

Another standout, "Glittering Prize," featured the band performing on a set covered entirely with gold foil–including the band and their instruments. If they would have added a bit of black to contrast it, and thrown in a single red rose, they would have summarized the entire aesthetic of '80s corporate design.

Frankly, I got bored after "Don't You (Forget About Me)," which boasted Kerr's new dork-ass curly hair cut, and clips from *The Breakfast Club*. After that they seemed to degenerate into a musically mature but artistically boring "We Are The World" arena band. Now, I realize this sounds a bit mocking for a favourable review. But remember–when I mock the synth-pop, I mock with a deep love.

The live stuff features a concert shot in Verona in 1989, showing off a very talented but only somewhat interesting "We Are The World" arena band being a "We Are The World" arena band at their best. What can I say? There were badly dressed fans, a marginally better dressed band, fancy lights, a stage that extended into the audience, and, y'know, arena stuff. It was an arena show.

Far more interesting is the bonus live material. A few songs originally broadcast on *The Old Grey Whistle Test*, a few recorded at The Hurrah Club in New York (both in 1979), and six songs recorded live in 1982. The last is a fine example of a popular young band on their way up the charts–enough money and experience to put on a live show, but early enough in their career that they can still taste the Kraft Dinner. By far the standout material on this compilation is the footage at The Hurrah Club. When I finally get that damn Rock and Roll Time Machine built, I will certainly make an appearance at that show.

So, where do Simple Minds rank in influence on the indie crowd currently embracing and about to grow bored of new wave? Let's just say that if I were to draw up the curriculum for an introductory class, they wouldn't make the required reading list with The Smiths and Joy Division, nor would they make the optional materials with Depeche Mode and Echo and the Bunnymen, but I would recommend them to the keeners looking to brush up on the pop end of the new wave canon. At least up until 1985.

For Simple Minds fanatics (and I know you're out there), this is a gem–a "Glittering Prize," as it were–of '80s pop-culture. But for the casual fan, save your money until the next time The Organ comes to town, then bring all your friends and buy an armload of merchandise.

Simple Minds: ♆ ♆ ♆ ♆
The Organ: ♆ ♆ ♆ ♆ ♆
(Oh, shut up, you know they're that good.)

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Obie-winning play showcases singular talent

Tim Matheson photo

Former student Meg Roe returns to UVic's Phoenix Theatre to star in *The Fever*, Wallace Shawn's powerful one-hander about a traveller's reflections on privilege and poverty. The show opens on Jan. 29.

by Max Lamb

For stage actors, Meg Roe's stage career is the stuff of dreams.

Her starring role in Wallace Shawn's challenging one-person play *The Fever* at the Phoenix Theatre is merely the crowning achievement in her string of recent successes.

Up to 2001, she performed and studied with the University of Victoria's Department of Theatre. She left to perform with the Theatre Junction ensemble in Calgary and launched her career. Over the course of the next two years, she won two Betty Mitchell Awards for Outstanding Newcomer, and a Best Actress Award in a production of *Proof* with the Alberta Theatre Projects. She has performed as Juliet at the Vancouver Playhouse in *Romeo and Juliet*, and as Anne in *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Theatre Calgary. Roe has returned to the Phoenix Theatre here at UVic to finish her Bachelor of Fine Arts, and to perform *The Fever*, premiering on January 29.

The Fever is a 105-minute monologue written by Wallace Shawn, who was in some of Woody Allen's better films including *Manhattan* and *Radio Days*. Most will remember him as the egotistical evil mastermind in *The Princess Bride* ("Inconceivable!"). As it turns out, aside from having a hilariously annoying voice, Shawn can write damn fine plays. He has won three Obie Awards, for *Our Late Night* (1975, Playwrighting), *Aunt Dan and Lemon* (1985, Distinguished Playwrighting), and *The Fever* (1991, Best New Play).

The Fever deals with the distribution of wealth between the rich and the poor. It is a story of how one deals with the privilege one is given, and how one treats the poor and underprivileged. This is particularly self-reflective for Shawn, who led a wealthy privileged childhood thanks to his father, William Shawn, a long-time editor at *The New Yorker*.

"It's been a really intense, wonderful education for myself," says Roe in reflection of working on *The Fever*. "Mostly educational in learning what my process is on my own, and not under the influence of other actors." Meg has many expectations to live up to–performing on the stage alone on a chair for almost two hours can be rather unnerving for any actor. Roe seems to handle it calmly, as she says "It's much easier when you don't have other actors to block you. It's just me sitting in a chair for a long period of time. The action is within the words in the piece, and I know there are going to be many people who will hate this play. But there may also be a great amount who take something out of it, and begin to question privilege in general." She adds, "But it's all about bringing people back, so hopefully I'm brilliant."

With such a challenging play, it will be interesting to see how people will react to her performance. This one's up in the air. It could be an inconceivable, ego-driven self-portrait, or it could be profound and insightful. Either way, this is a wonderful opportunity to see the talent of the university's theatre department at work in its most distilled form.

The Fever *runs from Jan. 29 to Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. at the Phoenix Theatre. There will be a matinee on Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.*

'Net blowhard Strongbad sings

by Graham Stark

Homestarrunner.com
STRONG BAD SINGS and other type hits
Harmless Junk, Inc

Homestar Runner is an Internet phenomenon that's just barely staying underground. Over the past couple years the website has grown from something two brothers started doing for fun to a small empire of silliness.

Mark and Matt Chapman, also known as the Brothers Chaps, operate the site homestarrunner.com, which features hilarious cartoons, games, rampant '80s pop culture and original music. The latter finally exploded with the release of their CD, *STRONG BAD SINGS and other type hits*.

Nothing that follows will make any sense to the uninitiated, so go to the site and initiate yourself.

The album features totally new material as well as remastered versions of favourites from the site, such as the classics "Trogdor!" and "The System is Down." There are songs from the fictional bands Limozeen and Taranchula, as well as appearances from almost every cast member from the site, including Marzipan, Coach Z, What's Her Face and even Eh! Steve. There is also a hilarious "live" version of "Everybody to the Limit (fhqwhgads)."

Available only from the website for $12 US, it is definitely something fans should own and definitely something that will be totally lost on anyone else.

Graham Stark graphic

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Sweathogs Esquimalt Inn
Victoria
Friday January 30

Saturday January 31
Harry Manx and the Urban Turban
McPherson Playhouse

Friday February 20
Kelly Joe Phelps
with guest...
Steve Dawson
(Zubot & Dawson)
Bar & Grill CENTRAL

Saturday February 21
Gibson Auditorium
Camosun College
ROY FORBES
Opener... Allen Dobb

Tuesday February 24
Gibson Auditorium
Camosun College
Ennis Sisters
Openers...
Easily Amused

Friday March 5
Bar & Grill CENTRAL
Lennie Gallant

James Keelaghan
Gibson Auditorium
Camosun College
Saturday March 6

Tickets: A&B Sound (Jazz Desk), Lyle's Place, McPherson Box Office (250) 386-6121
For more info, contact High Tide Entertainment 478-1888 or high-tide@telus.net

Tallyho Motor Inn

Live Standup Comedy
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NO COVER

Richard Left
Jan. 31

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Location: UVIC
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No Pre-reading
Please register by Feb 3, 2004

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Wed. February 4th, 5:00pm
Inside the Travel CUTS office
UVIC SUB Room B138

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The fan's guide to talking trash

How to taunt, tease, mock, and talk the tears out of your favourite athlete, coach, or ref

BY BRYNA HALLAM

HEY REF!
WHY DON'T YOU GET ON YOUR KNEES, CAUSE YOU'RE BLOWING THE GAME!
I'M INSECURE ABOUT MYSELF AND BELITTLING YOU MAKES ME FEEL GOOD!
YOU SUCK!
GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

What's the most important sporting skill? Ball control? Work ethic? Hand-eye coordination? No, no and no. When it comes down to it, it's all about talking trash.

That's right. Good ol' down and dirty, yo' mamma trash talk, the stuff playground fights and bench-clearing brawls are made of, the mainstay of angry hockey parents everywhere.

Apparently, however, UVic teams are too good to talk the trash.

"That's not part of the game," they say, as if sportsmanship ever brings in a crowd.

"This is a gentleman's game," they claim, as if that were an excuse.

The truth is that trash talk gives teams a boost. It gets fans involved. It adds colour. And it rattles the other team.

Strangely, the grand pooba of dirt speak himself, Bobby Knight, isn't a fan of his guys playing with their mouths. He said he'd rather have his players concentrate on playing instead of on wiseass remarks.

If that's true, then it falls on the shoulders of fans to carry on the not-always-pretty tradition of verbal smack. With that in mind, here is the fan's guide to talking trash.

First you need a target, a scapegoat, an enemy. Consider your options. Should it be the ref, judge or ump? Or is it the other team's star that's getting you down? Maybe it's the coaches of your team. In some cases, it may even be your own team dropping the ball.

Once you've got your target, you need to be annoying. Be loud. Use bad grammar. Swear. Chant loudly and bang things–pots and pans, cowbells, trash cans–whatever you have on hand. The point isn't to be civilized, it's to get people angry, and to do that, you need to be heard.

Next there are some specialized insults to consider. Since game officials are popular targets, trash talk can be tailored to fit their role. A classic is, "Get down on your knees, ref, because you're blowing the game." Pure genius.

Players, too, are obvious choices to trash-talk. Nothing satisfies like getting the other team's lanky centre to miss a free throw, or reducing a champion midfielder to tears after a missed penalty shot. It's like a warm bath and a nice nap: satisfying, relaxing and fun.

With players, the question is whether to go after the other team or your own for playing poorly. The choice is yours, do you razz the bad guys, or punish the hero for letting you down? Whatever you decide, do it with flair.

But there's no reason to limit yourself to abusing players for their play. What about their personal lives, their haircuts, their mothers? The key to giving someone a good trashing is creativity.

In the end though, coaches are the ultimate scapegoat. After all, they make the decisions. They're in charge of the team. And to top it off, they've trained the players. So blame them. Criticize their plays, their substitutions and their choice of attire.

Most importantly, never let righteous preaching about "fair play" and "sportsmanship" slow you down. Righteousness is for sissies and you're no sissy, right?

Sports briefs

Canada West Swimming Championships

Stutzel festooned with medals at championship meet

Fourth-year Vikes swimmer Karley Stutzel savaged the competition at last weekend's Canada West swim championships, coming away with three medals and a spot on the Canada West all-star team.

Stutzel won gold in the 400 and 800 metre freestyle swims and shared a bronze in the 4/200-metre freestyle with Danielle Bell, Erika Hunzinger and Laina Steeple.

Bell, a third-year social sciences student, also took bronze in the 800-metre freestyle.

The Vikes women finished the meet in third place overall, behind the University of Calgary and the University of British Columbia.

Creel leads men

Fourth-year Anthropology student Dave Creel led the Vikes men with a silver medal in the 1500 metre freestyle and a bronze in the 400 metre individual medley.

The team finished fourth overall behind UBC, Calgary and the University of Alberta.

Although UBC won both the men's and women's events it was reported to still be an awful place to go to school.

For full meet results and information visit www.uvic.ca/vikes

Basketball

Women dispatch Spartans

One team is the reigning national champion, the other has the worst record in Western Canada.

Imagine, if you will, how this plays out.

The Vikes women's basketball team effortlessly dismissed the 1–14 Trinity Western Spartans twice last weekend in Langley. On Friday night guard Dani Everett's 18 points paced the Vikes to a 76–48 win. The next night forward Jania Mynott dropped 17 in a 78–56 win.

The performance brought the Vikes to 10–4 on the season, good enough for fourth place in Canada.

Trinity humbles men in Langley

Consistency, in basketball as in stool, is integral to success. After owning the Trinity Western Spartans all season the Vikes men's basketball team lost fell to them twice last weekend.

By failing to stay solid against a weaker team the Vikes fell to 8–6 on the season.

On Friday night at the Dave E. Arnason gymnasium in Langley the Vikes were beaten 71–61. Guard Chris Trumpy hit for 17 points in the loss. The next night the Vikes lost 80–71. The Chrises, Marsh and Trumpy, had 10 points each.

The stumbling Vikes are now in a last-place tie with UBC in the Pacific division.

–Richard Warnica

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Two medals for the Vikes' Dave Creel

Nic Hume photo

Vikes Swimmer Dave Creel swims towards one of his two medals at last weekend's Canada West Swimming Championships. For more information, see the Sports briefs.

Hall of famer picks Pats

Pressure of Super Bowl will overwhelm Carolina, says six-time Grey Cup Champ

by Tom Grainger

Between 1975 and 1982 Dave Cutler kicked the Edmonton Eskimos to six Grey Cups. As the Eskimos' all-time leading scorer and a CFL hall of famer, the Victoria resident knows about pressure. And for him that's what this Sunday's Super Bowl between the New England Patriots and the Carolina Panthers is all about.

Last week *the Martlet* sat down with Cutler, now a marketing representative at 100.3 the Q, and got his take on the big game.

"This will be a great game because it pits a well-oiled team and a former Super Bowl winner [New England] against a lunch-bucket bunch on a mission [Carolina]," Cutler said.

The Super Bowl is one of the world's most highly televised events.

The players spend the entire week leading up to the game under the media microscope, a factor that Cutler thinks will probably define the game. "The pressure in the Super Bowl to perform and win is unbelievable, and the team that adjusts to the pressure will win," said Cutler, adding that "the pressure will be on the Patriots because they are expected to win."

But the pressure of being the underdog is daunting too. Because the Panthers have never been to a Super Bowl they've never seen the total disruption in preparation that comes with participating in the America's largest sporting event. Cutler thinks that if Carolina gets caught up in the hype, they don't stand a chance.

"The New England organization and their players were there two years ago… they can dodge the issue." Cutler said.

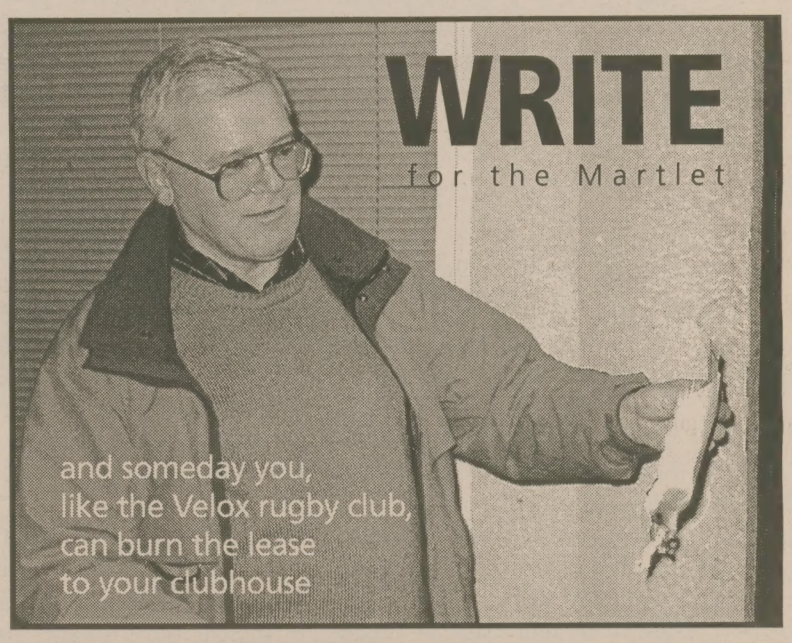
Once the game begins Cutler says to watch which team is best able to control the pace of the game. "Regular season games and, to a lesser degree, playoff games usually have a learned rhythm, but this rhythm explodes in the championship…the game flies by." he said. "The team that plays their game at their rhythm has the best chance"

Beyond adjusting to the big game atmosphere Cutler says if Carolina wants to have any chance of winning, they have to put out New England's offensive fire. "If they stop them the pressure will build on New England and they will slowly self destruct," he said.

But according to Cutler, if Carolina can't put a stop to New England's offensive juggernaut, they will be in for a long day.

His prediction?

"New England is very solid and experienced. New England wins by 11."



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www.dal.ca/planning

Billboards

oped@martlet.ca | 721-8360

On campus

People, Poverty & God: a Christian discussion group which explores the connection between faith and social issues. Every Monday at the interfaith chaplaincy (beside the bookstore) at 2:30 p.m. Come and discuss. For more info contact April, aprilg@uvic.ca

Interested in gaining RESEARCH EXPERIENCE? Applied student research training projects that focus on child and adolescent health and well-being are now available. Projects are submitted by community agencies. Students complete research projects for experience, course credit and a $200 stipend. Please contact Leah Wilson at cormrc@uvic.ca or 721-7843.
www.youth.society.uvic.ca

Off campus

Pachanga Latina is Back…The ultimate Salsa dance party, Saturday Jan. 31, 8 p.m. till 1:00 a.m. @ The Ukrainian Cultural Centre 3277 Douglas Street. Free parking lot. Free Salsa dance class from 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. cover $8 pp.

Learn to fix your bicycle! Ongoing. All ages. Classes Thurs. 4 – 7 p.m., Sat. 1 – 4 p.m. $8 kids, $13 adults. Different class each week at the re-CYCLI-stas bike co-op. 25 Crease. 418-8867. You must pre-register.

Help wanted

Teach English in China – July
Room, board & stipend. Information meeting Feb. 5 www.WeFocusOnResults.com.

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELLORS ON CAMPUS FOR PREMIER CAMPS IN MASSACHUSETTS
Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counsellors in all team sports including Roller Hockey and Lacrosse, all individual sports such as Tennis & Golf, Waterfront and Pool activities, and specialty activities, including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newpaper, rocketry & radio. GREAT SALARIES, room, board, travel and U.S. summer work visa. June 17 – August 13.
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(Girls): 1-800-392-3752
Interviewer will be on campus Monday March 1 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Building (SUB) – Michele Pujol Room.

TEACH ENGLISH Overseas: Jobs $$ Guaranteed – Great Pay. TESOL Certified in 5 days in-class (monthly classes), on-line or by correspondence. **FREE** Information Seminar, every Monday @ 7 p.m. Bedford Regency, 1140 Government St. **FREE** Infopack: **1-888-270-2941** or **globaltesol.com**

Volunteers wanted to act as conversation partners and activity leaders for international students. If interested, please send résumé or personal statement to cathy@cdncollege.bc.ca or fax 383-2292.

Announcements

Renée brings you a different source of insight. Tarot California – by appointment, e-mail tarotcalifornia@yahoo.ca. Learn to read tarot by getting readings – it's easy.

Quality of Life Awards, 2004. We're gathering stories of people working together in the CRD to enhance our quality of life. Share ways you are involved in your community – through work, volunteering, sports, arts, school. Submissions received by March 26 will be considered for 2004 award. Stories published at qolchallenge.ca/connections/connection_stories.html. For more information: info@communitycouncil.ca or 383-6166.

The Senate Committee on the University Budget's 2003 Report and Summary of the Student Survey on barriers to Completion as approved at the Jan. 9, 2004 Senate meeting are available for viewing at the office of the University Secretary's website – web.uvic.ca/univsec/

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! The Centre for Asia-Pacific Intiatives is seeking Graduate and Senior Undergradute students to present their research papers on topics related to the Asia-Pacific region in a SYMPOSIUM on Feb. 27 at UVic. Students interested in participating in this event must submit a 500-word abstract of their work, along with their name, e-mail address, department, level and supervisor's name electronically to capi@uvic.ca or in hard-copy to Fraser Building, Room 131. The deadline for submissions to publicly share their work and to practice speaking in a symposium setting is Friday Jan. 30, 2004.
For more information visit the CAPI website at: www.capi.uvic.ca.

CAMP COUNSELORS wanted for private Michigan boys/girls summer camps. Teach: swimming, canoeing, skiing, computers, tennis, archery, riding, crafts, climbing, golf, guitar & more! Office, maintenance jobs too. Salary $1750 on up plus room/bd.
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Activist Video Night presents "Iraqi War UNCOVERED: The Whole Truth." How truth became the first casualty in Iraq. CIA, Pentagon and US foreign polict service experts speak out to expose the lies, disinformation and exaggerations that the Bush adminstration used to justify an illegal and immoral war. Friday, Jan. 30, 7:00 p.m. Camosun College, Fisher Bldg., room 100, FREE, info. 595-3991.

GOT SOME EXTRA TIME to help someone kickstart an active lifestyle for the New Year? At Recreation Integration Victoria (RIV) we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities. Here's your chance to get active and spend time with someone who enjoys the same activities you do. RIV is looking for volunteers to provide one-to-one assistance for people with disabilities who would like to participate in a variety of recreational activities. To get involve or for more information, please call Dustin: 477-6314

IVCF Lecture Series
Paul Chamberlain will be speaking on: "Isn't Christianity anti-gay?", "Religious plurism," and "Can we be good without God?"
Feb. 12 @ 7 p.m. HSD A240/ Feb. 13 @ 2:30 p.m. DSB C112 and 7 p.m. CIT 105

GROOVEFEST is a fun and fabulous fundraising event for people of all sizes, shapes, colours, abilities, genders, and sexualities. It is a high energy anti-fashion, outlaw culture, and radical variety show that celebrates beauty(s), diversity(s), sexuality(s), and resistance(s). GROOVEFEST will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004 in Vertigo in the Student Union Building (SUB). Tickets are available in advance at the SUB info. booth, Kiss and Tell, and Ditch Records. For more info, contact groovefest@riseup.net or 721-8353

Volunteers

Only top 12 applicants will be accepted to provide support and information as volunteers on our sexual assualt team. Training starts Feb 24th. Contact Tracey at the Women's Sexual Assault Centre 383-5545 or volunteers@vwsac.com.

For sale

Kosher Lunch at UVic??? Call 884-3244
You Order – We Deliver!
Salami Sandwiches every day for $3.00.

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Hey you!

Mr. Bush, please pull your head out of your ass and insert it into a wheat thrasher–thank you, the world is now a better place.
G.O.D.

Love me-Love you–baby doll.

For the artiste of the "Khmer Rouge patsy": I can't wait to give you the prezzie I got you in Newfoundland! I'm afraid it isn't cod tongue. You'll have to settle for my tongue instead, but I hear good things about it. I love you!

Lima beans for all. Green beans for some.

Billboard Rates:

Students and Clubs – $2/issue
Non-Students – $2/line
Businesses – $5.50/line for first 3 lines
+ $2/extra line
hey you! – free

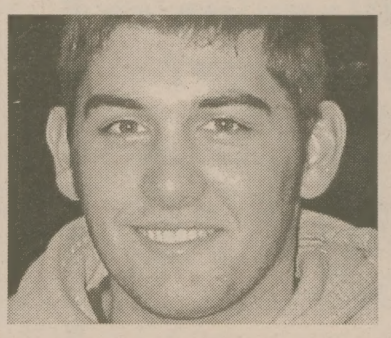
on the spot

Queried by Graham Stark and Ed Baskerville

Today's Question: **So, what's happening on February 4th? Huh?**

Terri Ingram

TI: Yes! The National Day of Action.
GS: Do you think it's going to work?
TI: Oh, gosh. I really hope it does. I don't know… I get the feeling on campus that it's not that people aren't aware, just that they aren't interested. There seems to be a lot of apathy.



Nicholas Campbell

NC: It's that protest against the… upping of… tuition fees, isn't it?
EB: Do you think it'll be effective?
NC: I don't know. Probably not.
EB: Will you be going?
NC: Well, I'll be going, to show that I'm upset about it, but probably not much is going to come out of it.

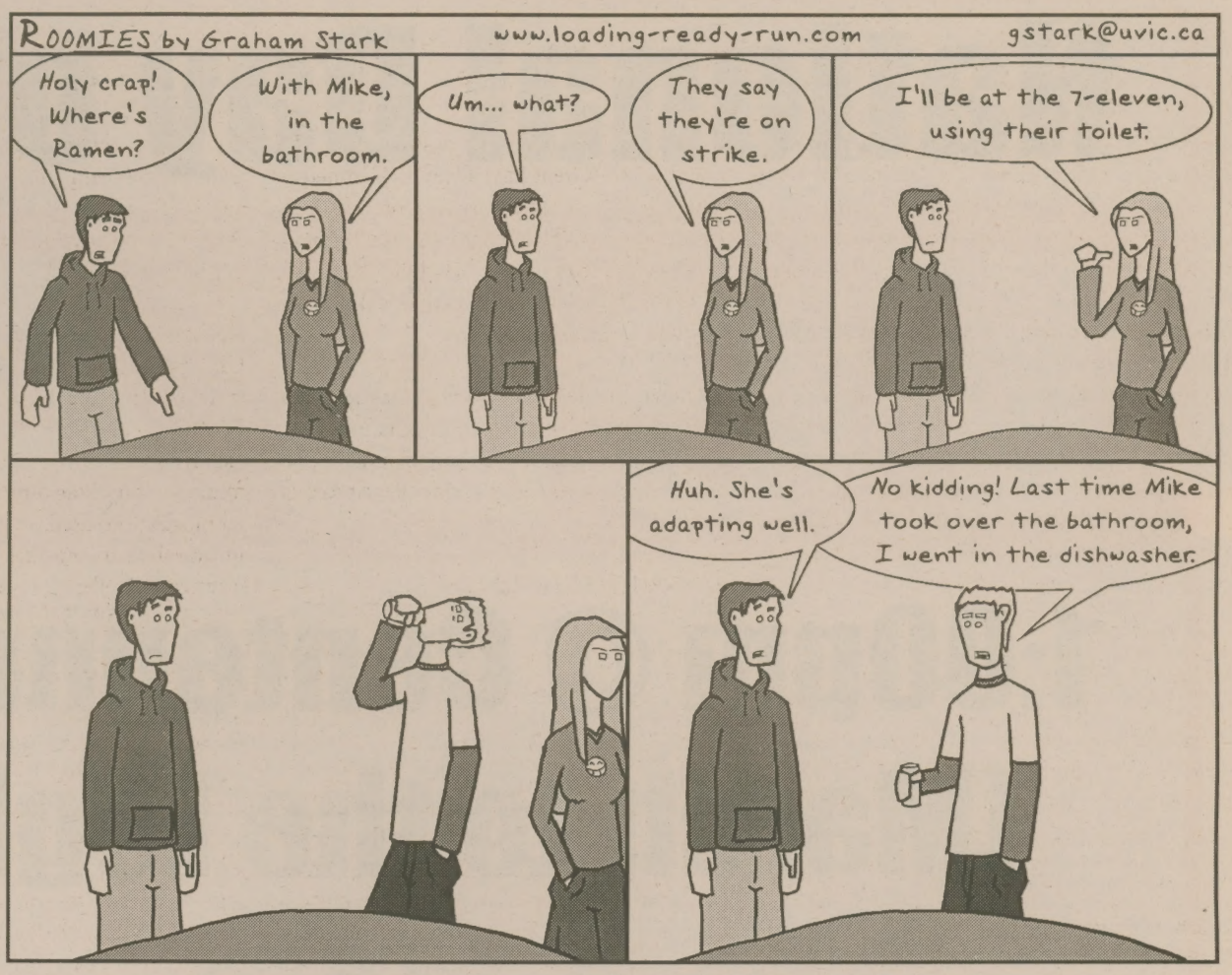
Yana Gryshan

YG: It's that walk to the legislature for reducing fees. Tuition fees. Well, not *reducing*, but making them not go up.
GS: What do you think of the tuition fee boycott?
YG: I really don't think it's going to do much. People will be too scared of getting kicked out. They did it at SFU and it didn't work.

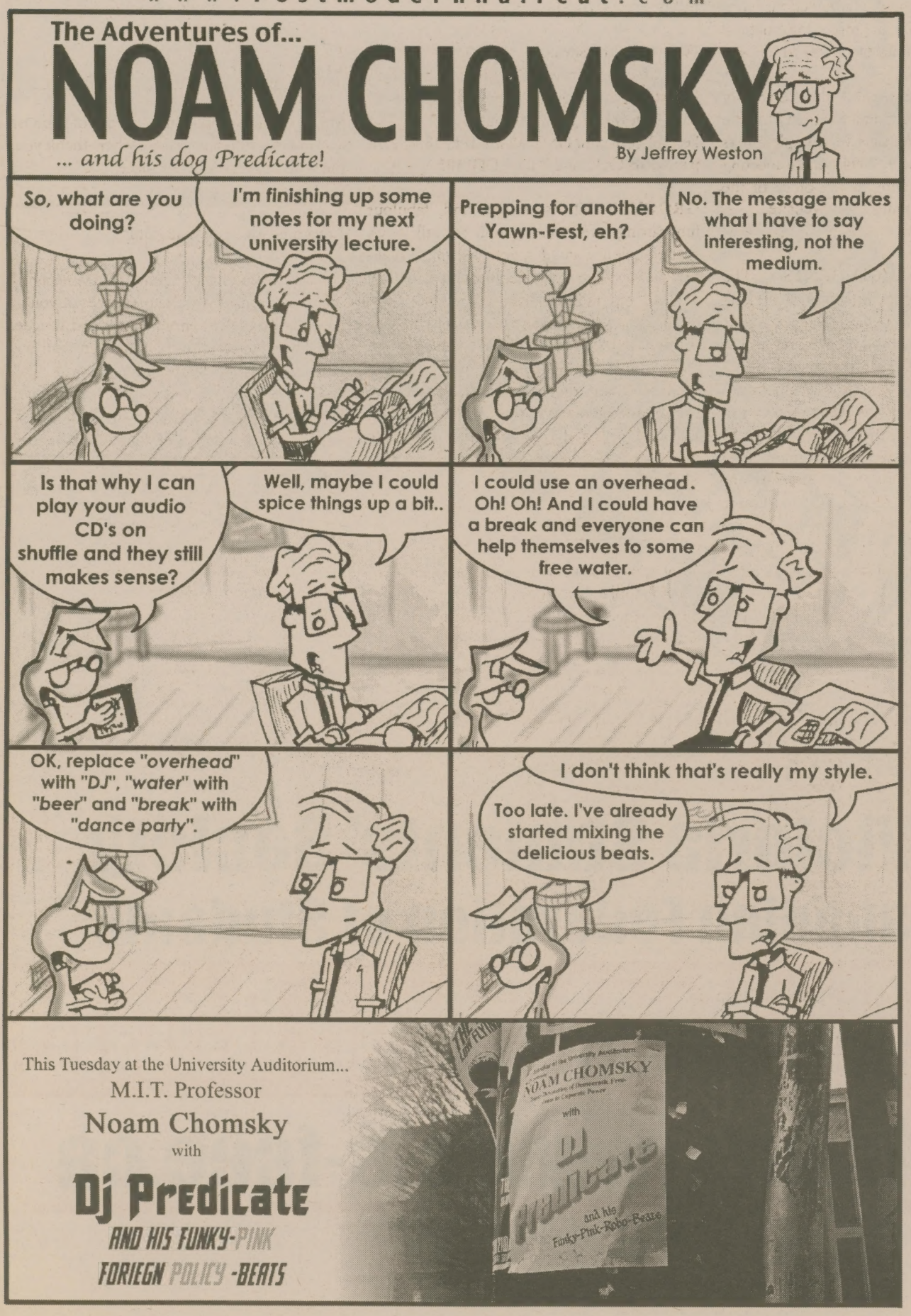
Jacob Roos

JR: I know that there's a student action day taking place and that we all get academic amnesty from our classes.
GS: Wow, that was a concise answer. So… you want to go in Ed's van?
JR: In *his* van? Not particularly, but I'll bet you if it's big and panelled you could find some kids that would get in there.

SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN.
HEY, FRIDGE... ARE YOU REALLY POSSESSED BY SATAN?
FILTHY HEATBAG! YOU DARE QUESTION MY ULTIMATE POWER?!?
ALL I'M SAYING IS WOULDN'T THE REAL SATAN HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN HANG OUT IN MY FRIDGE ALL DAY?
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE, YOU KNOW... TEMPTING PEOPLE TO SIN AND STUFF.
TEMPTING?
SINCE WHEN HAVE PEOPLE NEEDED TEMPTING?!?
MAN! I COULD SURE GO FOR SOME HANDGUNS, MALT LIQUOR, AND PROSTITUTES!
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Holy crap! Where's Ramen?
With Mike, in the bathroom.
Um... what?
They say they're on strike.
I'll be at the 7-eleven, using their toilet.
Huh. She's adapting well.
No kidding! Last time Mike took over the bathroom, I went in the dishwasher.

www.PostmodernHaircut.com


The Adventures of...
NOAM CHOMSKY
... and his dog Predicate!
By Jeffrey Weston
So, what are you doing?
I'm finishing up some notes for my next university lecture.
Prepping for another Yawn-Fest, eh?
No. The message makes what I have to say interesting, not the medium.
Is that why I can play your audio CD's on shuffle and they still makes sense?
Well, maybe I could spice things up a bit..
I could use an overhead. Oh! Oh! And I could have a break and everyone can help themselves to some free water.
OK, replace "overhead" with "DJ", "water" with "beer" and "break" with "dance party".
I don't think that's really my style.
Too late. I've already started mixing the delicious beats.
This Tuesday at the University Auditorium...
M.I.T. Professor
Noam Chomsky
with
Dj Predicate
AND HIS FUNKY-PINK
FORIEGN POLICY -BEATS

National Day of Action

Feb 4th

1:00pm @ Centennial Square
(March to the Legislature)

University of Victoria Students' Society
Local 44 of the Canadian Federation of Students

What Goes Up Must Come Down!

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